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High-spending euro states face heavy fines

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN countries that fail to control their budget deficits after joining a single currency will face heavy and repeated fines, under proposals to be put forward by the European Commission today.

Fines could accumulate beyond 1 per cent of Gross Domestic Product for states that persistently fail to correct excessive deficits after being ruled out of line.

The system of semi-automatic sanctions against high-spending

states has been designed over the past year, largely under German pressure, and is expected to be adopted today.

The so-called stability pact is deemed vital by Germany to ensure that the euro remains as strong as the mark after it replaces national currencies on January 1, 1999. But Italy, Spain and other countries making fierce efforts to squeeze through the EMU entry test have qualms about a permanent fiscal straitjacket.

A rush to austerity across Europe in recent weeks has raised the

prospect that most of the EU's 15 states will qualify to join the currency in 1999. Germany is increasingly worried that some members with shakier economies may — with effort and creative accounting — manage to squeak into the euro only to revert to bad habits once inside its zone.

Under the Commission's draft, which is likely to be modified before final approval by EU leaders in December, delinquent states would be given a ten-month warning if their budget deficits exceeded 3 per cent of GDP — the ceiling for

EMU entry set out in the Maastricht treaty. If such states failed to reduce the deficit, the Council of Ministers would order them to deposit between 0.2 per cent and 0.5 per cent of GDP to a non-interest-bearing account at the European Central Bank. A rising scale would be applied to punish gross overspenders more heavily. States that exceeded the Maastricht criteria for national debt would be subjected to a straight 0.2 per cent deposit. If a member state still failed to bring its deficit below 3 per cent in two years, the funds would

be seized and contributed to the EU budget as a fine and a further deposit immediately demanded. The process would continue until the deficit was brought down.

EU ministers and Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the monetary commissioner, insist that the scheme is designed as a deterrent whose success will be proved if it is never used. However, the creation of such a disciplinary mechanism is sowing fears around Europe because it will further trim governments' sovereignty over fiscal policy — states will not be able to argue

that their national parliaments forced them to overspend.

The Commission's draft codes that the sanctions should not apply in exceptional and temporary circumstances beyond the control of a national government, but an 'exact definition of those circumstances has yet to be resolved. It could cover natural disasters, serious recessions or shocks such as the oil price explosion in the 1970s.

Although the German finance minister Theo Waigel had sought an even more draconian system,

German officials are pleased that the rest of the EU has swung round to a scheme privately dismissed as unworkable last year.

The Commission will also be issuing its proposals for reinforcing budgetary discipline in countries that aspire to EU membership but fail to qualify. Part of the system will be a new exchange-rate mechanism to harness currencies outside the euro zone to the single currency. The new look-ERM is backed by all EU states except Britain.

Leading article, page 23

Ministers opt to extend handgun ban

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

AN ABSOLUTE ban on the most dangerous handguns, including semi-automatics of the type used by Thomas Hamilton in the Dunblane massacre, is to be announced today.

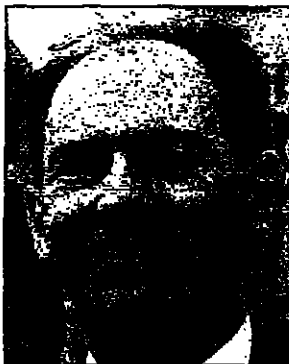
As expected, people will no longer be allowed to keep any handgun at home, but the Government is also going beyond the Cullen inquiry's recommendations and prohibiting the use of larger repeating handguns anywhere — except by the police and armed forces.

The Government intends to allow people to continue to shoot the .22 pistols used in Olympic competition and lower calibre weapons at clubs. But even that might be forbidden if enough Conservative MPs support the approach agreed by Labour yesterday.

As Cabinet ministers were considering their response to Lord Cullen's Dunblane report, Labour shifted its stance to favour of a complete ban on the ownership and use of any handgun by non-professionals. A number of Conservatives also support that policy and — depending on the stance of the Ulster Unionists — the Commons could well vote for the full ban when the legislation comes forward later this year.

Yesterday the Tory MPs Hugh Dykes and Robert Hughes signed a cross-party early-day motion calling for such a ban "in the interests of public safety". Mr Dykes said: "It is really to focus the debate very strongly on this growing perception amongst the public that nothing less than the complete prohibition on the private ownership and use of handguns will do."

Both the Government and



Forsyth: victory over cautious colleagues

Labour would allow exceptions for professionals such as veterinary surgeons, the police, the military or seafarers firing distress flares.

Labour's change of stance came after Tony Blair met Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, yesterday afternoon. Labour sources said that the party had already been "seven-eighths of the way" to backing a full ban. The only possible exception had been for single shot handguns under .22 calibre but, having listened to police advice and public opinion, it was now likely that Labour would come out for a complete ban.

Labour has been clearly been influenced by the emotional appearance of the Snowdrop campaign's Ann Pearson at the Blackpool conference two weeks ago, and the Conservatives are certain to accuse the party of blatant opportunism.

Labour, however, argued last night that the Government had moved beyond the original plan to ban home

ownership of guns only because of Labour pressure. The Government's position, while angering the gun lobby, will go some way towards meeting the concerns of anti-handgun groups and is a victory for Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, over more cautious members of the Cabinet, which yesterday spent 90 minutes discussing Lord Cullen's report into the schoolroom massacre of 16 children and their teacher. The response will be announced with the 200 page report today.

Downing Street said that the Cabinet had agreed "a substantive and very considered response". Asked if ministers were happy with Lord Cullen's report, the spokesman said: "He has done a very careful and thorough job and presented a long report which addresses a lot of issues."

The handgun ministers want banned include all large calibre pistols and revolvers, which have a small but dedicated following in this country. Apart from a very few specialist weapons and antique flintlocks, the vast majority of modern handguns with calibres above .22 calibre are able to take several rounds, from traditional six-shooter revolvers to semi-automatic pistols whose magazines can hold 13 or more bullets.

Enthusiasts determined to hang on to their handguns may find it possible to have them adapted to take only a single shot or have the barrel replaced with one of the smaller calibre. Most, however, are likely to give up their sport in disgust as opportunities to shoot their weapons disappear.



Alison Radbourne hugs her daughter Ann-Marie in Exeter yesterday

Girl, 10, reunited with mother

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl who disappeared with her family lodger was reunited with her mother yesterday after police spotted the couple walking along a road in Exeter (Joanna Bale writes).

Ann-Marie Radbourne and Paul Husbands, 51, were

found by two Ministry of Defence police. The girl was well but hungry after being away from her Paignton home since Sunday. She had slept in derelict buildings.

Detective Constable Fred Fleming, who was on his way to a court case, said later: "We

just felt seeing the older man with a young girl did not seem right. Ann-Marie was very quiet but not frightened or distressed." Both were taken to the city's Heavitree police station.

A man was later arrested on suspicion of abduction.

In-store GPs

Supermarkets will be free to run doctors' surgeries, under proposals to deregulate GP care. Page 9

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Passenger goes berserk on Atlantic flight

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

SIX passengers on a Virgin Atlantic jet yesterday joined in a terrifying mid-air struggle to control an American who went berserk at 30,000ft, halfway across the Atlantic.

The New Yorker, 37, was flying in the premium economy section of flight VS076 from Orlando to Manchester when he allegedly began lashing out wildly. Attempts by the crew to restrain him failed and on five occasions the man managed to fight his way out of nylon and metal handcuffs that had been used to strap him to his seat.

As the captain made preparations to make an emergency landing at Shannon airport, the man was subdued when Paul Hogan, another pass-



Hogan: punched rowdy passenger in the face

enger, punched him and broke his nose. Police met the plane at the airport and took a man away in handcuffs.

Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin, last night wrote



"Cigarettes, perfumes, knuckledusters..."

to the passengers to thank them for their courage and the crew paid tribute to Mr Hogan, 32. However, Mr Hogan, wearing a blood-spattered T-

shirt, said: "I didn't have time to be frightened. I was thinking about my family and all the other passengers."

Mr Hogan, a car salesman from Bradford, west Yorkshire, was returning from two weeks in the United States with his wife, Tracey, and son, Daniel, 12. "I noticed the man about four hours before we were due to land. He was arguing with the stewards," he said. "Then he walked up through the premium class cabin towards the cockpit. I stuck my head behind the curtain because I thought there was going to be trouble." James Mulvey from Palm Coast, Florida, was last night charged with endangering an aircraft and being drunk on board an aircraft. He is due to appear in court at Manchester today.

Markets and pound surge

Confidence in Britain's economic policies yesterday propelled the pound to its best level against the mark for nearly two years and the stock market to another record.

It surged by more than two pence to a 21-month high of DM14.384. The FTSE index climbed 12.1 points to a new high of 4,050.8. Page 27

Stock market, page 33

Speaker permits Willets inquiry

The Speaker has paved the way for an inquiry into allegations that David Willets, the Paymaster General, tried to influence an independent Commons investigation into the cash-for-questions affair. MPs are expected to support the inquiry today. Page 2

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INTERNATIONAL

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

ITV fights lure of the Queen Vic with a feel-good tale of Tyneside yuppies

Geordies take on East End in battle of the soap operas

By PAUL WILKINSON

TYNESIDE is to be the latest battleground in the ratings war among television soap operas. A new programme, already dubbed *North-East Enders*, is being launched by ITV to tackle *EastEnders*, the BBC's flagship series.

Quayside intends to be different to its rivals, which are mostly set in the nondescript backstreets of the inner city. Although its makers deny it is a yuppie soap, its characters are distinctly upwardly mobile and the show is aimed at the 35- to 40-something age group.

The location is the Quayside quarter of Newcastle upon Tyne, until recently a semi-desert industrial mess sprawling along the river under the city's famous "cat-hanger" bridge.

Much like the Docklands of east London, millions of pounds have been spent rejuvenating the site and it is now a hive of smart restaurants, cosmopolitan bars and stylish homes. It also has a burgeoning commercial heart, mainly involved in professional and high-tech businesses.

Instead of the Queen Vic, the *EastEnders* cockney pub, there is Mal's Bar, where drinkers are as likely to ask for a Bloody Mary as a Brown Ale. And the characters are more likely to be networking on the mobile than gossiping in the laundrette.

Quayside starts on January 7 in the Tyneside region, broadcasting on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the same time as *EastEnders*, which last week topped *Coronation Street* as the nation's favourite soap. After a four-month trial ITV hopes to launch it nationally. It is a

co-production by Tyneside, recently renamed Channel 3 North-East, and the independent programme maker Zenith North, responsible for several Geordie-based successes including the children's soap *Byker Grove* and adaptations of Catherine Cookson's novels.

Matthew Robinson, its producer and director, said it would not tackle controversial issues such as the Brookside incest storyline or Mark Fowler's battle with HIV in *EastEnders*. Mr Robinson, who has already worked on more than 500 episodes of *Coronation Street*, *EastEnders* and *Emmerdale*, said: "Quayside will be a feel-good soap. No issue, no doom, no gloom, you can get that on every other channel. We will be reflecting how vibrant an area the Quayside is. It will be an accurate reflection of what life in Newcastle and the Quayside is like in the 1990s."

"It will be about relationships and fun. The characters will be attractive, dare I say sexy. We want the viewers to climb through their TV screens and join in the fun."

One of the early storylines will focus on a love triangle involving the bar's owner, Malcolm Shepherd, a former soccer star, his fiancée, Nicole Sexton, an aspiring 19-year-old model, and Caitlin Kennedy, who sets up a special events firm next door.

Nicole soon ends up in the arms of the bar doorman, Carl Bugle, played by Glenn McCrory, a former world cruiserweight boxing champion turned actor and Sky TV commentator. He was recently offered a 16-month contract with

the Royal Shakespeare Company and once auditioned for the part of James Bond in *GoldenEye*, which eventually went to Pierce Brosnan.

Nicole's part of a bubbly party-girl who lives to be seen in Newcastle's trendiest nightspots is played by Emma-Louise Webb. She said: "Nicole is a model who is a bit scatter-brained and naive, the sort of girl who gets excited by the easiest thing and wants to be in the big time."

"I know *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders* are the big soaps but I think *Quayside* will be a big hit with viewers," Mr Robinson said. "The love triangle between Nicole, Mal and Caitlin will be the strongest storyline running through the show, but there will be lots of other twists and turns to keep everyone guessing."

"We will be going out head to head against *EastEnders*. That is a challenge, but one we relish. We don't have the budget the bigger soaps have, but I think there is room for a different type of soap and *Quayside* fits the bill."

"It's a very young cast and they all come from the North. The first episode will contain a real twist but it's important we make the second episode a cracker so the audience keep coming back."

Mal Shepherd, played by Joe Caffrey, is a good-looking former Newcastle United footballer who set up his bar after injury ended his playing career. Dean Atkinson plays Luke Shepherd, Mal's younger brother who wants to be a media star.

Television, page 51



Glenn McCrory as doorman Carl Bugle and Emma Louise-Webb as Nicole in *Quayside*

Drink is cure for dole queue blues

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE more an unemployed man drinks the better are his chances of finding a job, according to a new report.

Researchers working on behalf of the Employment Service were surprised to discover a link between alcohol consumption and escaping the dole queue. They believe that men who spend more time in the pub are meeting people who can help them to find work. People who drink could also be more outward-going and sociable than those who stay sober.

"We are not saying that wine is every employer's dream," said Joan Payne, a senior research fellow who combed through the records of nearly 15,000 people. "Probably what is happening is that a lot of jobs are got informally through asking friends and getting into networks. The pub is a very big centre of these networks."

The figures suggest that employment prospects improve with every drink. A sensible drinker, who has between seven and 21 units per week, increases his chances of finding a job by 21 per cent over a man who drinks little or nothing. The hard drinker, who exceeds the Government's "sensible drinking" limit of 21 units per week, is even better off. He has a 30 per cent increased prospect of employment over the teetotaler or low drinker. One unit of alcohol is a glass of wine or spirits or half a pint of beer.

The Policy Studies Institute, an independent research body that prepared the report for the Government, was last night the toast of some of the nation's best-known occasional drinkers. The broadcaster Terry Wogan said: "There is a long-standing tradition in radio and television of having a lot of time on your hands and hanging round between recordings. So there is a lot of steady drinking done."

"In the BBC club, where people in the balcony days used to meet and greet one another, many a programme commission changed hands over a foaming beaker."

"It never happened to me personally — at least I am certainly not going to admit it now — but in our business it has probably happened that one drinker has said to another: 'Here's a 13-week contract. Why not?'"

The publisher Leo Cooper admits to the "odd tip-off" about a career move from a drinking contact but would not recommend anyone to try to drink their way into a job. "I suppose it could be down to false confidence. The question is how long do you last when you have got the job? People may drink to go to an interview to boost themselves but if they have to do that then they will get rumbled soon."

"There are an enormous number of drunks in my business and they are all the more cheerful people that I know. Not many of them are in full-time employment."

Couple's office tiff 'ended in 65mph chase'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A COMPANY director chased his wife's car down a busy road and rammed her into a ditch after an argument at the office, a court was told yesterday.

At speeds of up to 65mph, Alan Foster chased his wife Yvonne's Citroën AX bumper to bumper for four miles before hitting her car sideways with the bullbars of his Isuzu Trooper, which was alleged at Teesside Crown Court.

The impact was said to have lifted the Citroën's wheels off the ground, forcing it to veer past the Trooper and somersault into the

offside verge of the A171 coastal road near Whitby, North Yorkshire.

Simon Hickey, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Foster, 43, from Staintondale, near Scarborough, helped to rescue his wife from her smoking car but, when she refused to speak to him, he sped off to Whitby, where he was arrested by police.

John Philliban, 29, an officer in the RAF, said that he had thought the couple were playing a game of chase when he saw Mrs Foster, looking "quite agitated", overtake his Peugeot on the road, followed shortly by the Trooper, which had

its lights blazing. Mr Philliban overtook the cars to get out of the way but they soon gained on him again.

"They filled my rear-view mirror," Mr Philliban told the jury. "I saw the Isuzu literally slam into the rear back panel of the Citroën, causing it to swerve. She was trying to keep straight. It was pushing on the side of the Citroën. The Citroën just slewed across the Isuzu on two wheels. Then, as all the wheels hit the road, it shot off, hit the kerb and somersaulted, ending upside down in the ditch."

"I did a U-turn and when I reached it there was smoke coming

from the vehicle and the woman driver was trapped inside, very distressed."

He and other motorists, including Mr Foster, pushed the car back onto its four wheels, the court was told. Mr Foster then attempted to get into the passenger door, calling out "Yvonne". Mr Philliban said:

"She became even more hysterical saying, 'Keep him away from me. He tried to drive me off the road. He was screaming, 'I just want to sort this out. Will you not talk to me?'"

Mrs Foster climbed into the back seat of another woman's car after

her husband drove away. Then he returned, and got into the passenger seat of the Citroën, Mr Philliban said. "I asked him to come out of the vehicle, which he did unwillingly, saying, 'She's going to tell the police everything and I'm going to go to jail.'"

Mr Hickey told the jury that when interviewed by police after the incident on December 4 last year, Mr Foster said he had followed his wife after she sped away from their offices because he was worried she would have an accident. He denies one charge of dangerous driving.

The case continues.

Firm beats Spanish imposition

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S cider brandy manufacturers yesterday defeated Spanish rivals trying to force them to change the name of their product.

Julian Temperley, of the Somerset Cider Brandy Company, had feared his firm would be forced out of business after investing more than £500,000 in marketing Royal Somerset Cider Brandy, which is sold by the royal vintners Justerini & Brooks, and by Harrods and Fortnum & Mason.

Spanish brandy makers complained to the European Union that the term brandy should be used only for spirits distilled from grapes, and their case was supported by the Scotch Whisky Association.

Mr Temperley, however, was able to prove that the term "cider brandy", coined by Bertram Bulmer in the 1970s for King Offa Cider Brandy and sold through the Bulmer Cider Museum in Hereford, derived from an historic tradition of apple brandy manufacture in Britain. The claim was backed by a book dating from 1678, describing the process.

Mr Temperley, 51, said yesterday: "This has secured our future into the next century."

Missing £1.50 calculator puts policeman in dock

By PAUL WILKINSON



PC Whitfield outside court with his wife, Carrie

A POLICEMAN went on trial yesterday accused of stealing a calculator worth £1.50 after he was allegedly caught by a surveillance camera in his own police station.

Colleagues of PC Andrew Whitfield installed the hidden camera in an office when they became irritated by a series of petty thefts. It recorded the 30-year-old married officer pocketing the calculator.

PC Whitfield, who has been suspended on full pay from his £20,000-a-year job since February last year, denies theft, claiming he only bor-

rowed it to do the police football club accounts and forgot to bring it back.

James Goss, for the prosecution, told Leeds Crown Court: "Considered objectively, a case of theft of such a small pocket calculator of such a low value is a minor offence. However any allegation of any crime must be considered serious and this case is no exception." PC Whitfield's job was in jeopardy if he was found guilty.

PC Whitfield, of Wakefield, was serving at the time with the West Yorkshire force at Dewsbury. Mr Goss said that items had gone missing from the report-writing room and surveillance equipment was set up in

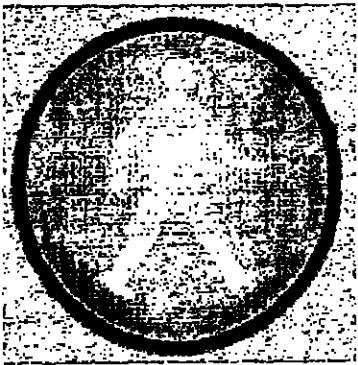
January last year. A month later the calculator disappeared from a leather wallet in the room. When the video was studied PC Whitfield was shown to be the culprit. Yet when he and other officers on his shift were asked about its disappearance at a briefing, he said nothing.

He was arrested on February 15 and a search of his home found the calculator. He admitted borrowing it to do the football accounts. "Yet when checked there was one simple arithmetical error that if a calculator had been used would not have been made," Mr Goss said. The trial continues.

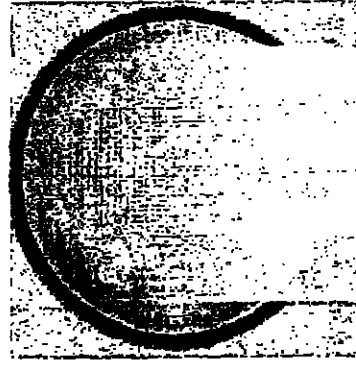
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Breakthrough in Stormont talks overshadowed by acrimony over loyalist plan for Bogside parade

Violence feared as Apprentice Boys announce march

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

FEARS rose yesterday of a renewed outbreak of violent sectarian clashes in Northern Ireland this weekend after loyalists announced their intention to march along a contentious section of Londonderry's historic walls.

The decision by the Apprentice Boys to cast a shadow over the multiparty talks at Stormont where Unionists and nationalists finally reached agreement on an agenda early yesterday morning. The agenda, tabled jointly by the Ulster Unionists and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, downgraded discussions on the disarming of terrorists. This allowed the nine parties at the talks to outline their positions on wider issues yesterday before turning their attention to disarmament. The Democratic Unionists and the United Kingdom Unionists made clear their anger with the new agenda.

As ministers greeted the agreement, nationalists and Unionists in Londonderry clashed over the decision of the Apprentice Boys to march around the city's walls this Saturday, including a stretch overlooking the nationalist Bogside area. The loyalists, who were banned by the RUC

from marching along the quarter-mile section in August, also told the police that they intended to parade along the walls on every Saturday until Christmas.

Dorcha MacNiallais, the spokesman for the nationalist Bogside Residents' Group, said: "I am not saying that the march won't pass off peacefully. But I am saying that in many ways people will regard this as a confrontational matter because the Apprentice Boys refused to discuss the matter with us."

William Hay, an Apprentice Boy and Democratic Unionist councillor in Londonderry, said there was little point in talking to the residents' group because they had refused to agree to a compromise over the loyalist march in August. He said: "The Apprentice Boys are exercising their civil and religious liberties to parade the historic walls of Londonderry. Surely an organisation that has shown responsibility should be allowed to celebrate their culture and their tradition in the way they have done for 300 years."

The tensions between the two sides yesterday served as a grim reminder of this summer's widespread distur-

bances between nationalists and Unionists during the loyalist marching season. Violence between the Apprentice Boys and the nationalists of the Bogside was averted in August only after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, ordered that the contentious section of the walls be sealed three days before the march.

His decision infuriated loyalists who have now carried out their threat to march along the walls to commemorate the Siege of Londonderry in 1689. If the march is allowed to go ahead, 200 marchers, from the various clubs of the Apprentice Boys, will take to the walls on Saturday morning.

The gloom of last week, after the IRA's bomb attack on the Army's Northern Ireland headquarters in Lisburn, Co Antrim, had lifted over the weekend when loyalist terrorists made clear that they would maintain their ceasefire for the moment. But the upbeat mood, which was improved by the agreement at Stormont, has been seriously undermined by the spectre of renewed clashes in Londonderry after the loyalists' decision, which many nationalists condemned as provocative.



The Apprentice Boys in Londonderry on Saturday. Their decision to march around the city's walls has cast a shadow over multiparty talks

Signs of hope visible on long road to peace

Agreement between the Ulster Unionists and the SDLP on an agenda for talks is less a surrender to the IRA than an attempt to outflank it, Michael Gove writes

INCH by painful inch, a genuine peace process appears to be advancing. The language of "breakthrough" that accompanied the announcement of agreement between the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists overstates what has been achieved.

No settlement is yet in sight in Ulster. But the accord reached by Seamus Mallon and David Trimble goes beyond the clearing of a procedural obstacle. The agreement between Ulster's moderate Unionists and nationalists not to allow discussion over the decommissioning of weapons to impede talks may seem another concession to the IRA.

But the agreement seems less a surrender to republicanism than an outflanking. The last week has been a bad one for the IRA. Although in its

military audacity the Lisburn bomb seemed an impressive coup, politically it has undermined the republicans. It provoked a strong personal attack on Gerry Adams from John Major and also led the Irish Prime Minister to denounce the IRA as "fascist". It unsettled loyalist paramilitaries but they have, so far, not risen to the bait by ending their ceasefire.

The respect across communities for the loyalists' discipline has been matched with disillusionment among "middle Ireland" that the IRA should

have started bombing in Ulster again. Moderate Irish opinion was of disgust and concern. IRA bombs in Ulster could soon trigger loyalist bombs in the Republic. The operational weakness of the Provisionals and their waning influence has made military defeat of the IRA a possibility, in the minds of some strategists, for the first time since the Seventies.

More important is their political marginalisation. David Trimble's willingness to compromise springs from the new mood among moderate

Irish nationalists. Neither Dublin nor the SDLP seem prepared, as in the past, to allow progress to be impeded by a desire to court the IRA.

Although John Hume, the SDLP leader, hankers after another ceasefire on almost any terms, the momentum is now with Seamus Mallon, his deputy, who has expressed privately his commitment to finding common ground with Unionists.

Dublin has joined London in insisting any new IRA ceasefire is "dependable" and John Bruton last week was at pains to assuage Unionist concerns, rejecting the notion that Irish nationalists were a "hostile monolith".

There are still a great many difficult issues to resolve but if those committed to democracy concentrate on working together, then there is hope.

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Fathers seek more time off at births

By RICHARD DUCE

THE tiredness and loneliness felt by many new fathers are aggravated by the lack of paternity leave in Britain, according to a survey published last night.

Of 420 men questioned by the Royal College of Midwives and the National Childbirth Trust, 93 per cent complained of tiredness after sleepless nights and 60 per cent of loneliness. Such feelings, the survey says, were compounded by the lack of paternity leave, which prevented them from being involved in caring for their baby.

The survey found that 47 per cent of men were not offered any paid paternity leave and 79 per cent were refused unpaid leave. Twenty three per cent were given up to three days' leave, 14 per cent received four or five days with 4 per cent getting a week or more.

The survey concludes: "Today's new fathers want to be more involved with the care of their new baby and in order to do this paid paternity care needs to be widely introduced. Tiredness, loneliness and worry are dominant feelings in new fathers with very little recognition or support."

Mary Newburn, head of policy at the NCT, said yesterday: "Fifty per cent of parents are fathers but we conveniently forget that they exist and have needs and feelings too."

The Confederation of British Industry has so far resisted calls for paternity leave to be a statutory right. A spokesman said: "Our view is that it is an issue to be best tackled individually."

Schools boycott 'incompetent' supply teachers

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A QUARTER of secondary schools boycott teacher supply agencies because they have sent stand-ins who are incompetent or even drunk, a survey disclosed yesterday.

Teachers sacked or rejected by one agency were readily taken on by others because the law did not require them to make police checks or take references, said Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP who carried out the research.

Her call for greater regulation was backed yesterday by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which said children were being put at risk. The Government has decided not to back Mrs Hodge's Bill to license and inspect teacher agencies. Instead it brought in guidelines earlier this year recommending that thorough checks were made on supply staff.

Ty Goddard, the NSPCC's parliamentary officer, said: "This is a child protection issue and we want to emphasise those who seek to harm children are very well organised in this country and we must do everything to put in place proper checks."

Mrs Hodge's survey of Greater London secondary schools showed one in 15 lessons a week were taken by supply teachers. One in three head teachers said they had had problems with supply teachers. Some were unable to maintain discipline, while others simply "baby-sat" classes.

Many supply teachers were from overseas and lacked knowledge and experience of the national curriculum or GCSEs. Four inner-city

schools with high numbers of pupils from ethnic minorities said that white teachers from South Africa had a racist attitude.

In one instance a head teacher who greeted the supply teacher as he began his lesson realised that he was drunk and ordered him off the premises. One teacher black-listed by the Department for Education and Employment had turned up running a supply agency of his own in Newcastle.

The heads believed teachers fired from other schools could use agencies as a back door to return to teaching. TimePlan, the first and largest specialised teacher supply agency which places 700 teachers in schools every day, backed Mrs Hodge's call for tighter regulations and a bonding scheme similar to that used by approved travel agents. This would protect teachers' pay if an agency went out of business.

Tish Seaborn, managing director of TimePlan, said: "It was not long after we started that we found some of our rejects turning up in classrooms. If things go wrong, all teacher supply agencies are going to be tarred with the same brush unless we bring in regulations."

□ A teacher has been savagely beaten by two drunk teenagers, Mike Parsley, 30, was left with a broken thumb, a possible broken nose, damage to his eye and severe bruising after the lunchtime assault by two ex-pupils at Highbury Grove Secondary School in Islington, north London.

Family reaps gold reward for lifetimes of adventure

By ALAN HAMILTON

FOUR brothers and sisters set an adventure record yesterday when they were presented with Duke of Edinburgh gold awards on the same day.

Jason, Scott, Tracie and Sharon McCarthy, of Shepperton, west London, embarked on their unique quest together four years ago, when they undertook a week's expedition to the Black Mountains in Wales. They reaped their reward at a ceremony at St James's Palace attended by the Duke, who launched his challenge scheme for young people 40 years ago. Since then more than 2.5 million teenagers and young adults have entered the scheme and nearly 125,000 have achieved gold standard.

A spokesman for the award scheme said yesterday: "We have had four cousins up for awards at one time, but never before four siblings. This is a first." The four were presented with their medals by Neil Fox, a disc jockey with Capital Radio.

Jason, 27, earned his gold by travelling in South-East Asia with the Operation Raleigh scheme and by winning a silver medal while competing for the British judo team at the world championships in Argentina. Tracie, 25, backpacked through the Mekong delta in Vietnam, learning about village life, then learnt scuba diving in Australia.

Sharon, 24, spent 18 months travelling through Asia and Australia, ending up on an expedition with venture Scouts in Switzerland. Scott, 22, has just returned home after a winter in

Austria and a summer on the Greek island of Kos.

The four had the full support of their parents. Their mother, Ann, 54, has joined her children in the past on backpacking trips in Thailand and Central America. "They have all worked so hard and they have all done it independently," Mrs McCarthy said yesterday. "They had no sponsorship or help from school. We have tried to help them out financially, but they have had to meet the cost themselves. I am so pleased that all four have been able to do it while they are still young."

Sheila Smith, of the award scheme, said: "They are a quite remarkable family and thoroughly deserve their achievement."

Photograph, page 26

مكتبة من الأصل

Warning over fruit drink additives by food watchdog

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

FRUIT-FLAVOURED bottled spring water contains a mix of potentially dangerous chemicals and is often loaded with sugar, the Food Commission claims today. It says that some are produced with low-cost additives and that manufacturers exploit an unjustified image of purity to push prices as high as £2.80 a litre.

Research into 24 brands published in *Food Magazine* shows that many of the most popular brands contain preservatives, colourings, artificial sweeteners and other additives. The commission says this makes a mockery of claims of purity on labels.

Ian Tokelove, its spokesman, said: "People with asthma are drinking some of these products and wondering why they are short of breath. The labels describe the drinks as spring water with a hint of flavouring, but this is not making clear that they are full of artificial chemicals."

Unlike mineral water, spring water has no legal definition and is usually obtained from bore holes into underground reservoirs. The

Addition of flavourings means it technically becomes a soft drink, making it legal to use chemicals including artificial sweeteners such as aspartame, which costs just 0.1p to flavour two litres of liquid, against 12p for sugar.

Where real sugar is used, the amounts are high. Sainsbury's tangerine flavoured Crystal Spa was found to contain more than a Coca-Cola and a 250ml carton of Ribena Spring had the equivalent of seven lumps. The British Dental Association said spring water drinks containing sugar increased the risk of tooth decay.

More serious, according to the magazine, is the use of the preservative sodium benzoate in half the products tested, which some research suggests may cause breathlessness and trigger hyperactivity, even though it has been approved by the European Union.

Christine Milburn, of the British Soft Drinks Association, said members were bound by regulations which ensured the purity of the source. "We add nothing

which has not been tested and approved by all 15 member states of the EU."

An EU directive passed last July means that manufacturers have to list all additives on the label, but it will be next summer before this comes fully into force. SmithKline Beecham, manufacturer of Ribena, said: "We use real sugar rather than artificial sweeteners because that is more wholesome."

Marks & Spencer adds aspartame and sodium benzoate. "These are both on the approved list of additives," a spokesman said. Sainsbury's said all the products tested by the commission were "designed to be refreshing". Company policy was to provide as much information as possible to customers. The company was now reviewing soft drinks labels and would add "with sweetener" to them where applicable.

Tesco denied that its labelling was misleading. Its water was from a 100 per cent natural source flavoured with natural fruit juices and there was no added sugar, it said.

Water companies say six new reservoirs are needed

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

SIX new reservoirs will be needed in east and south-east England to ensure water supplies into the next century as demand rises because of global warming and an increase in single households, water companies in England and Wales said yesterday.

Their warning was issued in advance of a government report on water resources into the 21st century, due today. The report will outline the threat to rivers, wetlands and other nature sites if too much is taken for supplies...

The Department of the Environment says that demand is soaring because of the

Yorkshire Water, criticised for its handling of last summer's drought, is to lift all restrictions on water use next month.

popularity of gardening and a projected growth in new households to more than four million, as well as rising temperatures and more frequent droughts.

Professor Paul Harrington of Loughborough University, who compiled the report, predicted that domestic consumption for appliances and gardening would rise by 36 per cent by 2021, and 41 per cent if there is significant global warming.

ing director of Severn Trent and spokesman for the Water Services Association, which represents nine of the ten big companies, said domestic consumers would not accept more rationing so action had to be taken now for the future.

He said that there "was a requirement for at least six new reservoirs to ensure an adequate margin of safety. They will be destined for the East and South East." Two have already been proposed in Oxfordshire and Kent.

The Environment Agency has urged the companies to tackle leaks and demand management before it will consider backing development of new, and potentially environmentally damaging, resources such as reservoirs.



The Princess with Danielle Stephenson yesterday. The seven-year-old underwent pioneering surgery in May to rectify an irregular heartbeat

Princess praises 'miracles' of heart surgeons

By EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales praised the "miracles" performed by heart specialists and the courage of their patients yesterday.

The Princess was helping to raise money for research into heart and lung disease with the help of Danielle Stephenson, from Southend, Essex. The girl is among dozens of heart patients the Princess has visited regularly at the Royal Brompton Hospital in west London.

At a reception in aid of the Heart of Britain charity, the Princess said she was "fascinated by the workings of the heart". In the foreword to a book of photographs aimed at raising money for the charity, the Princess wrote: "I have been privileged to see for myself the miracles — at the very leading edge of medicine today — performed by the teams of surgeons, doctors and nurses at Royal Brompton Hospital, whose dedication saves so many lives."

"I have been profoundly impressed, too, to see how bravely patients cope — and have been particularly touched by the courage and trust shown by Britain's little people — our children. All need our compassion, our love and our support at what is often their darkest hour."

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, joint president of Heart of Britain who invited the Princess to attend an operation at Harfield Hospital in April, praised her "inspirational" care and compassion at the reception at Harrods, which was hosted by the store's chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed. The charity book contains 300 photographs showing scenes of modern life, submitted to a competition by amateur photographers. It costs £19.99, with all profits going to the charity.

Danielle became one of the first children in Britain to undergo new treatment in May this year to burn away abnormal electrical pathways inside her heart that were causing an irregular heartbeat.



Yates: went to police

Yates gets bail in drug case

Paula Yates, the television presenter, has been released on police bail until December while investigations continue into the alleged discovery of opium at her home. Miss Yates, 30, former wife of Bob Geldof, was arrested when she went to Chelsea police station. She is said to have maintained that any drugs found at the home she shares with the rock singer Michael Hutchence must have been planted.

Aids man named

A hospital anaesthetist who died of an Aids-related virus, prompting hundreds of inquiries from worried patients, has been named as Gopinathan Manohar. Mr Manohar, married with a three-year-old son, was a registrar anaesthetist at the Royal Albert Edward Hospital in Wigan.

'Eco' evictions

Bailiffs evicted more than 50 protesters who had barricaded themselves into a self-styled eco-village set up on a 13-acre site beside the Thames in Wandsworth, southwest London, on derelict land owned by Guinness. One protester was arrested.

CORRECTION

A report, "Call for curb on stage hypnotists" (September 23), failed to make clear that Philip Green was not the hypnotist in the stage act in which Sharon Taborn was involved, and was not connected in any way with her subsequent death. We apologise to Mr Green and his family.

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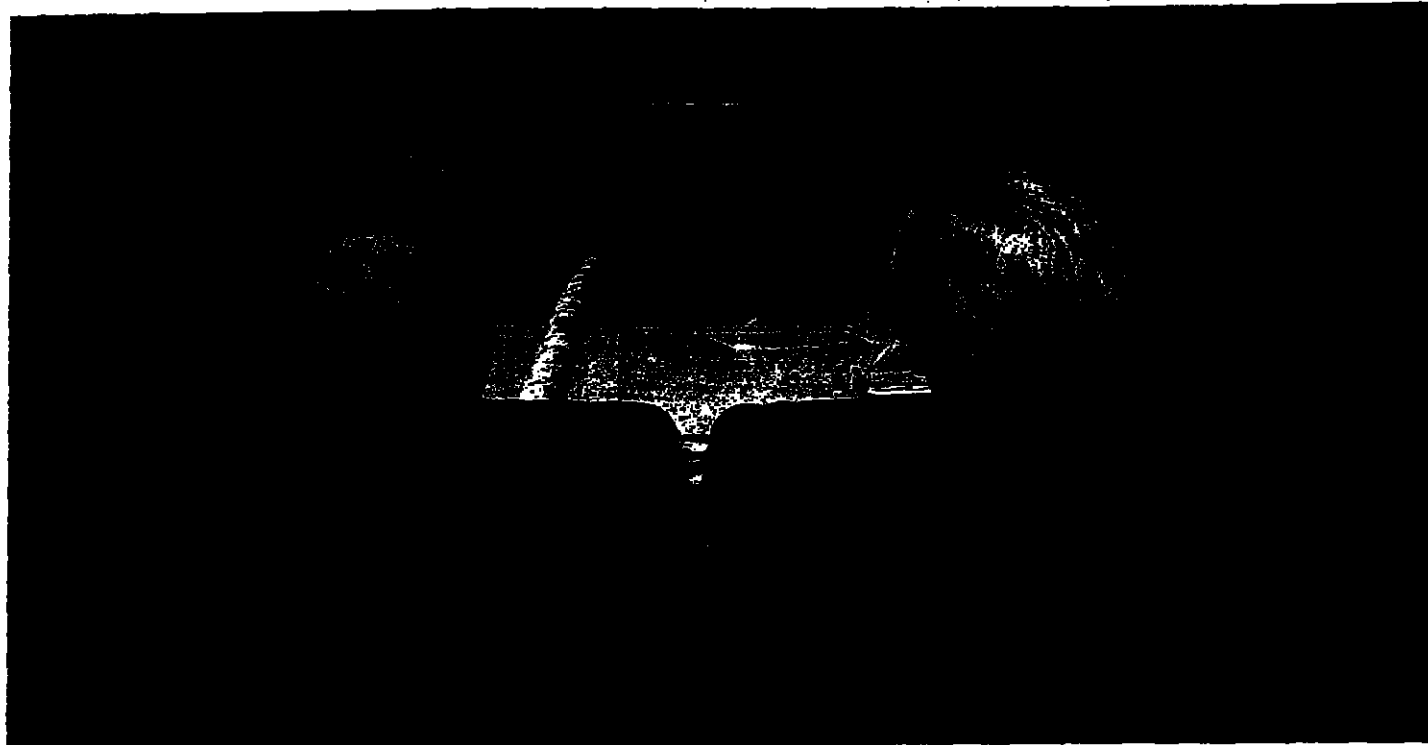
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مكذبات الرضا

Thousands of jobs announced as Britain begins to celebrate 100 years of car-making

Land Rover in drive to double output with sporty mini

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

LAND ROVER is to spend more than £250 million developing a mini four-wheel-drive vehicle aimed at women and young drivers, the company announced yesterday.

The sporty vehicle, which will be in production within two years, will sell for under £15,000 and help to double Land Rover production to more than 200,000 a year. Dr Walter Haeussler, chairman of Rover Group, said yesterday that the expansion would mean 10,000 jobs for component makers supplying Land Rover's plant in Solihull, West Midlands. Another 1,000 jobs have been created for construction workers building the new assembly lines, estimated to cost £350 million.

Vanishall is spending £300 million to expand and modernise its plant at Ebbw Vale, Merseyside. The plant, which produces Astra models, 40 per cent of them for export, will have maximum output increased from 120,000 to 160,000 annually. The growth creates 200 new jobs.

News of the investment boosted the motor industry, which is celebrating 100 years of car-making at the British International Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. The show opens to the public on Friday. As the show's press

previews began yesterday, the country's smallest manufacturers were talking of expansion plans. The Blackpool sports car maker TVR has doubled its workforce in more than 540 to cope with demand, while Marlyn plans to double production of its powerful sports models to 200 a year.

Eric Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "After a century of car-making in Britain, there is a buzz and confidence in our factories and design houses once again."

The most significant announcement came from Rover, which is sweeping away doubts over its future since the takeover by BMW three years ago. There were fears that BMW would cut jobs and investment, using Rover as an offshoot to supplement production in Germany. But Dr Haeussler said BMW was investing £300 million a year in Rover.

Land Rover made 68,000 vehicles in its first year under BMW ownership in 1993 but is scheduled to treble that number by the end of the decade. Most growth will come from the introduction of the new vehicle, which will take Land Rover into new territory, appealing to buyers who traditionally bought Japanese

vehicles. Dr Haeussler said the new vehicle, codenamed CV40, is smaller, lighter and designed for drivers who enjoy active leisure time.

"This investment shows BMW's confidence in Rover and will inject a total of £3.5 billion into the UK automotive component industry," he said. British component companies will supply 87 per cent of the parts on the new mini Land Rover and the vehicle will be designed in-house with no help from BMW.

The line-up of new cars at the show is one of the most glamorous for years. Jaguar's £50,000 XK8 sports car heads the attractions. Lotus, TVR, Mercedes and Porsche are all showing new models. Ford disclosed the price of the Ka, its quirky city car that goes on sale this month at £7,300 to £9,100.



A prototype of the "greener" black cab, which can run on unleaded petrol and compressed natural gas

Green cab cuts down on city pollution

A POSSIBLE successor to the black cab, running on petrol and gas instead of diesel, was launched yesterday.

Drivers of Asquith Motor Carriage's new version will flick a dashboard switch to change from unleaded petrol to compressed natural gas, radically cutting exhaust pollution. The company

aims to be ready to launch a fuelless electric model by 2003. The system is being developed by Zeus Energies, which is looking for £600,000 backing to speed development.

The Asquith taxi has six seats and a suspension which lowers the floor to pavement level, improving access for

wheelchair users. Instead of seatbelts, bars containing airbags swing down in front of passengers.

Yesterday Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, unveiled a project to use electric cars and vans in Coventry to see if they could solve pollution problems.



The mini 4WD takes Land Rover into new territory

Ford ad banned after complaints

By Carol Midgley

A FORD advertisement has been withdrawn after complaints from mental health charities that it trivialised schizophrenia. The radio commercial for the Ford Courier van featured the comedian Alexei Sayle as a customer who was "in two minds" about whether to buy the vehicle.

Sayle said: "You know, sometimes I think I'm schizophrenic... half of me wants a big van, half of me wants a small van. That's the trouble with both of me."

Fifteen complaints were received by the Radio Authority, including protests from the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and the Scottish Association for Mental Health. The charities said the commercial "misrepresented

and trivialised this serious and often misunderstood illness". Complaints from health workers and relatives of schizophrenics said that the lighthearted treatment was offensive.

The advertisement was broadcast on a number of local radio stations and a national station, Talk Radio. A Ford spokesman said: "We withdrew the advert as soon as we received complaints. We did not mean to offend anyone. Perhaps the advertising agency went a little bit too far this time."

In February, Ford apologised to four black workers and paid them compensation after white faces were imposed on their bodies in a photograph for a sales brochure.

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FOR COOL C

SEE PAGE 12

SHOW ROOM

Never mind quantity, look for quality

HILLINGDON Hospitals' refusal to accept patients aged 75 referred by their doctors illustrates the problems facing the National Health Service.

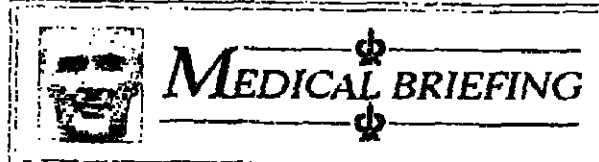
At Prime Minister's Questions yesterday John Major, replying to the Labour leader Tony Blair, told MPs that the "acid test" of whether the health service was working well was the number of patients treated, and went on to discuss the length of time spent on waiting lists. But this is only part of the story, and shows a lack of understanding of what people expect from the National Health Service.

What matters is not the total number of patients treated but the number treated efficiently, and that patients and their families should feel that

the best possible treatment has been available.

At the time of China's Cultural Revolution, Mao Tse-tung instituted the "barefoot doctors" system. The regime planned to save money by using technicians trained in a few particular skills rather than providing primary care dispensed by doctors who had had a general medical education.

The barefoot doctors would, it was reasoned, usually be able to provide enough help to tide their patients over the commonly occurring, not very sinister, complaints which afflict those in the usual surgery queue. The patients for whom nature and the technicians could not find a cure would be only a minority, many of whom might have died anyway, and



Dr Thomas Stuttford

so they did not, in an authoritarian society's view, amount to a large problem.

Any change to the National Health Service which gives greater emphasis to primary care has therefore to be very carefully analysed to make certain that the improved service being given will be better at satisfying the patient's needs and not merely at saving money for the Exchequer. Encouraging greater use of better-trained nurses

and pharmacists is obviously a cheaper option than using doctors who have had to spend six to ten years being educated. Greater reliance on ancillary staff might be financially desirable but it is doubtful if patients will always be able to get a broadly based opinion during their consultation from somebody whose training is by its very nature limited.

All experienced doctors know that patients might

come in to see them ostensibly to discuss one problem while they have another that is disturbing them which they are too frightened to mention. This will only be uncovered during the course of the surgery chat but might well be missed if that chat is with somebody whose medical education is limited.

Whether doctors will enjoy working from a supermarket remains to be seen. Having doctors employed by supermarkets, and at other centres, is certainly a simple answer to problems of the cost of inner-city surgeries, but whether suggesting they practise from spare counter-space in a supermarket is likely to keep British medicine in the forefront of international research is more doubtful.

A problem also exists in

finding the right type of nurse to become a nurse practitioner. Last year even teaching hospitals found it difficult to recruit nurses of the calibre needed to do their present jobs.

The appalled reaction of any patients I have spoken to about the Hillingdon incident demonstrates that for all the political talk of values, the value that people place on decent care for the elderly transcends any discussion about cost.

It is unlikely that patients are going to be satisfied with the thought that they can get a quick opinion about their sore throat at the local shop if granny is to be sacrificed in Hillingdon because she is too old to warrant the cost of a bed, whether in the hospital or in the local community.

Doctors offered freedom to innovate in White Paper proposals

Supermarkets may run in-store GP surgeries

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SUPERMARKETS will be free to run in-store doctors' surgeries under proposals to deregulate GP care announced yesterday.

The White Paper unveiled by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, would allow outside organisations to contract with health authorities to provide care. At present, all GPs have individual employment contracts with health authorities.

These could be NHS trusts, commercial organisations or supermarket chains. The GPs would be salaried employees working fixed hours.

Practices could also take responsibility for providing services, hiring GPs on salaries to perform specific tasks. Patients would still be on a named doctor's list and the service would be provided by the NHS, but responsibility for running it would rest with the organisation.

Supermarket chains which are looking at the possibility of running GP surgeries alongside pharmacies, in supermarkets and shopping malls have yet to be convinced that they are a workable proposition. Safeway said it would

like the freedom to offer additional services but is not certain that a supermarket would be the ideal environment for clinics, where patients need to speak in confidence to their doctors.

"You cannot treat patients as if they are waiting at the deli counter," said a spokeswoman. "We do have a toe in the water already. We may look at ways to expand on that if we could add extra services."

Mr Dorrell said the aim was to give GPs greater freedom in the way they provided care. They were being encouraged to take part in an experiment to devise the surgery of the future.

My aim is to provide choice and opportunity for those GPs and dentists who want to develop and improve services to pilot their ideas. Those who are happy with the status quo will be free to continue on the present basis," he said.

Currently only individual GPs, who are self-employed and must buy or rent premises, can contract to provide care. This has created problems in the inner cities where property prices are high and some doctors have



Dorrell: said aim was to provide opportunity

been caught by the property slump. Urban GPs have become harder to recruit and a salaried service is seen as the best way of stemming the exodus to the country.

At the other end of the scale, some of the most entrepreneurial GPs running big practices have been eager to expand their activities but have been frustrated by existing regulations. Under the White Paper proposals they will be able to hire GPs as well as nurses and other staff on salaries to do specific tasks.

The changes, which also affect pharmacists and optometrists, will be framed in a Bill to be outlined in the Queen's Speech next week. They follow a discussion document issued in June based on a six month "listening exercise" by Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, who travelled the country talking to doctors.

The British Medical Association said the biggest impact of the changes was likely to be in the inner cities. "These changes are most attractive for those who want a salaried service and for the most adventurous GPs who want to fly new ideas in an entrepreneurial way," said a spokesman. "It is about letting a thousand flowers bloom but we will have to see whether that turns into a cultural revolution."

The White Paper makes no mention of cottage hospitals, which had been touted by ministers earlier in the year as a way of bringing medical care closer to patients. Yesterday, Mr Dorrell told the Commons that the need for such hospitals would have to be assessed locally in the same way as any other NHS unit.

Peter Riddell, page 14



David Brook says that the centre at Victoria station deals with an average of 25 walk-in patients a day

Station doctors on a fast track for expansion

By TIM JONES

TWO months after opening Britain's first private walk-in surgery, opposite platform one at Victoria station in London, its backers are negotiating for five further sites to provide instant care to commuters and shoppers.

David Brook, of the Victoria Medicentre, admitted yesterday that the concept of instant, no-appointment treatment was so new that it was still a gamble. But he was confident that, once the facility had become more widely known, it would become an essential service for business people who could not afford to wait for days to see their doctors.

Apart from offering treatment and immediate consultation for people stepping off the trains, the centre has also provided invaluable aid to the seriously ill. Mr Brook said at least one man who had been suffering from a heart attack said he owed his life to them, while another was saved from the immediate and serious effects of diabetes.

At present the centre, which

is served by five doctors and three nurses, deals with about 25 walk-in patients a day. They can vary from people suffering from a simple cold to more serious cases who are referred to hospital specialists. Charges vary from £32 for a basic consultation to £250 for a complete health screening. Other services range from £5 for dressings to £37 for emergency contraception.

Mr Brook said: "We are confident enough of the need for the service to be planning another centre for Victoria and for three other stations in London. We are also hoping to open two centres in major provincial cities."

One area in which the centres hope to profit is in the provision of vaccination services to commuters travelling to Gatwick for their holiday flights. The company also hopes it can interest local businesses in using the centres for health checks on their employees. It offers an instant service without the delays normally associated with such procedures.

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WORLD COOL
PREMIUM SUPPLEMENT

Zambezi explorers survive close encounters on record paddle through heart of Africa

Kayak pair dodge rocks and crocs for 1,700 miles

By RUSSELL JENKINS

TWO British adventurers are today celebrating a record-breaking kayak expedition from the source of the Zambezi River to the sea. They fled from a man-eating crocodile and braved some of the world's most dangerous white-water rapids during their three-month journey.

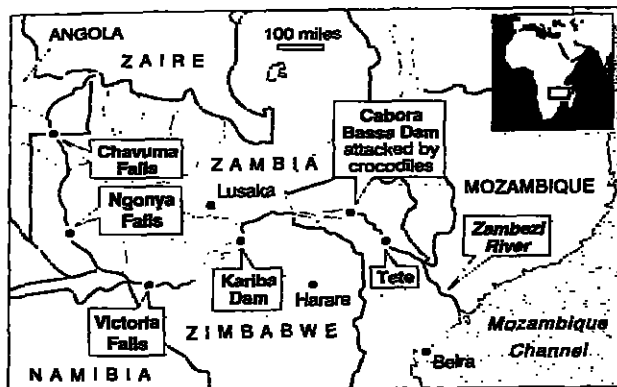
Justin Matterson, 33, and Rupert FitzMaurice, 31, both suffered from malaria as they paddled 1,675 miles from northwest Zambia to the magnificent sand-barred river delta on the Mozambique coast along the Indian Ocean.

On the trip, which involved 67 days of canoeing, the pair were almost capsized by charging hippos, caught in a whirlpool, paddled within 3ft of the Victoria Falls and rode out Force 5 winds on one of the continent's largest man-made lakes.

Mr Matterson, from Epsom, Surrey, who runs expeditions for the charity Raleigh International, believes they are the first to conquer the river unsupported.

The Source to Sea Appeal, spawned by the canoeists' adventure, has so far raised £7,000 towards a £25,000 target for the Leukaemia Research Fund. Both men are now recuperating in Harare, Zimbabwe, and are due to give a talk on their experiences at the Royal Geographical Society in January.

Their most terrifying moment came as they were negotiating a narrow passage beyond the Cabora Bassa lake in Mozambique. They had been warned by Afrikaner settlers to beware a crocodile which they later learnt was blamed for the deaths of five men. "Fitz felt a bang and the back of his kayak go down," Mr Matterson said. "He



thought he had hit a submerged tree but when he turned around, he had the stock of his life. "He saw what he considered to be the biggest crocodile head he has ever seen. It was resting on the kayak at a slight angle, looking towards him so you could see his teeth. His head appeared to be grinning. Fitz was in a hell of a state."

The head slunk back into the water as Mr FitzMaurice sprinted down the river. As the two men were pulling into the side, Mr Matterson spotted the crocodile gliding up behind his partner. He screamed a warning to Mr FitzMaurice, who dashed for the bank and

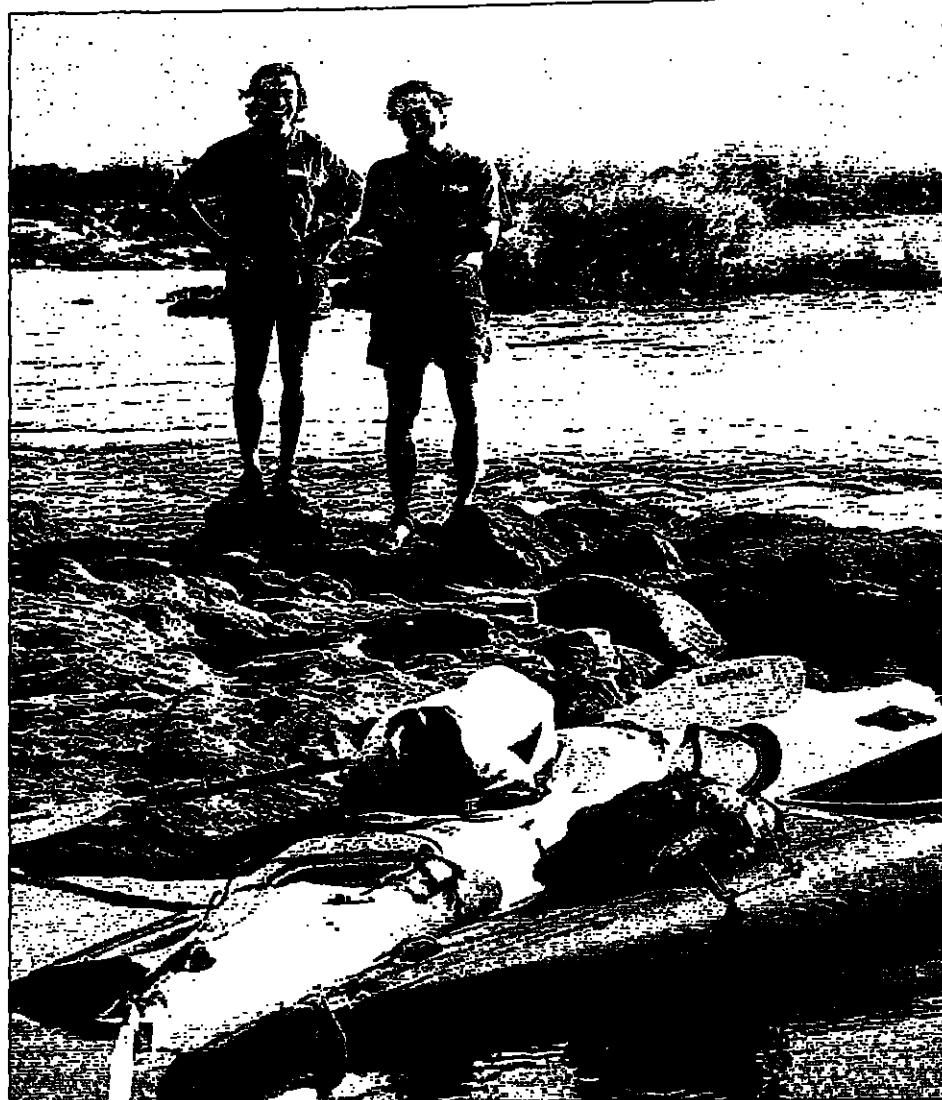
safety. "I don't know why he didn't go for Fitz again. With a croc that size, you would have no chance."

It was not until this century that the source of the 2,000-mile Zambezi was located in a Zambian swamp near the border with Angola and Zaire. For nearly 40 miles the pair followed the stream on foot, then made a detour around Angola, on Foreign Office advice, and picked up the river again at the Chavuma Falls in Zambia.

"On three occasions we startled hippos on the bank," Mr Matterson said. "They hurl themselves into the river and head for deep water. It is quite an adrenalin-pumping, fear-inducing moment. Hippos munch more people than any other animal. It is like being charged by a Buick."

In Mozambique the river passed through a wildlife conservation area known as Hippo City, home to more than 300 hippos. "That was a nerve-racking experience," Mr Matterson said. "People get taken on that stretch of the river every year."

"When we got to the sea we were silent for a good few hours. Basically we have kayaked through the heart of Africa."



Rupert FitzMaurice, left, and Justin Matterson on the banks of the Zambezi

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sentence on driver increased

A 15-month jail sentence on a speeding car driver who killed a pizza delivery boy was increased to 3½ years by the Court of Appeal. The judges held that the sentence passed on Richard French, 21, of Feltham, west London, for causing the death of 16-year-old Howard Petty was unduly lenient. The incident, in June, occurred hours after French had been freed on probation for a "road rage" offence.

Rail firm strike

The Rail, Maritime and Transport union will hold the first of a series of one-day strikes at First Engineering, a Scottish rail maintenance firm, on October 24, over the sacking of a member in a dispute over washing facilities.

Breton award

A linguist from Wales has been honoured by Brittany for promoting the Breton language. Rita Williams, 57, of Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, is the first Briton to receive the Ermine Collar, a Breton cultural award.

Life for rapist

A man who abducted a woman in Aberdeen and drove her 125 miles to rape her at his home in Edinburgh was jailed for life at the city's High Court. The judge recommended that George Clark, 35, serve at least 12 years.

Customer care

The people of Cardigan in West Wales raised £8,000 to send their postman, Michael Glover, to visit his grandfather in New Zealand after Mr Glover, 28, was found to be suffering from cancer. He has had to stop working.

Sickness at work

British workers take an average of 1.2 sick days a year, according to a survey by the insurers Legal and General. Forty per cent claimed never to have taken a day off. The CBI however said that the true figure was eight days a year.

Morrell's courage inspires hostage's girlfriend to fly to Kashmir

By EMMA WILKINS



Mosely, encouraged by Morrell and McCarthy

THE girlfriend of a British student kidnapped in Kashmir more than a year ago is to fly to India to search for him. There has been no contact with the kidnappers of Paul Wells for ten months but Catherine Mosely has refused to give up hope that he is alive.

Mr Wells, 25, a photographic student from Blackburn, was kidnapped while the couple were trekking in the north Indian state in July last year. Miss Mosely, 27, will leave for New Delhi later

this week. She has been encouraged to keep her hopes up by Jill Morrell, who campaigned for more than four years for the release of John McCarthy from Beirut.

Miss Mosely, from Norwich, said: "I know nothing for certain. Paul could be dead, but I choose to believe he is still alive. There are times when the future looks so bleak, but I try to be optimistic. I have been living two lives: things go on normally, but this is always in the back of my mind."

She will travel to India with Bob Wells, her boyfriend's

father. They hope to make contact with the group that is holding him and three other tourists: Keith Mangan, an electrician from Middlesbrough; Donald Hutchings, an American; and Dirk Hasert, a German.

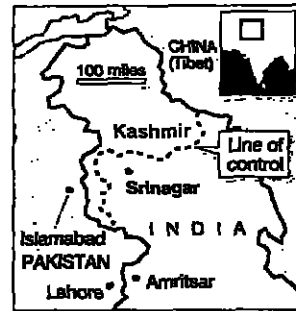
Indian police believe that they were kidnapped by al Faran, a Kashmiri separatist group. A Norwegian hostage was found beheaded last year.

Families of the hostages, including Miss Mosely and Julie Mangan, Mr Mangan's wife, have spoken to Miss Morrell, Mr McCarthy and

Terry Waite, who was also taken hostage in Beirut. James Bowman, who runs the campaign to free the hostages, said: "Cath and Julie Mangan have taken heart from Jill and her determination not to give up hope and to keep campaigning for John's release."

Mr Bowman said the aim of Miss Mosely's trip was to "establish some sort of contact with the captors, if only to establish that the men are still alive".

Miss Mosely and Mr Wells will make contact with diplomats at the British High



Commission in New Delhi before going to the Srinagar valley in Kashmir, where the hostages were taken. High Commission staff may ac-

company them, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Al Faran is thought to operate from a Pakistani-controlled area, north of the line of control drawn by the United Nations. Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, was asked by John Major to help to find information about the hostages when she visited Britain two weeks ago.

On November 14, 500 days after the men were captured, a group called Hostages in Kashmir will be launched to help to draw public attention to their plight.

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Luftwaffe damns much-vaunted Fulcrum fighter

Russia's Cold War air threat was 'hopeless'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

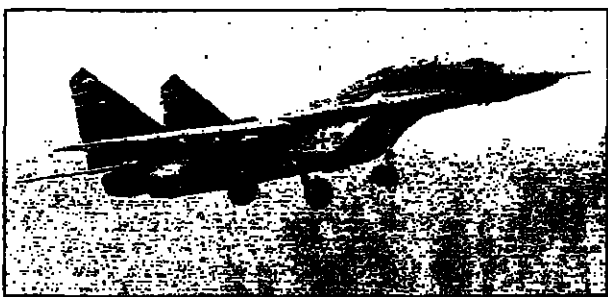
ONE of Russia's prize combat aircraft, described by Nato as a lethal threat to Western air forces during the Cold War, is almost impossible to navigate and hopeless in medium-range air-to-air combat, according to a new assessment.

The MiG29 Fulcrum was one of several Russian fighter aircraft whose potential was used by the West to justify the development of more advanced combat jets, such as the Eurofighter and the American F22.

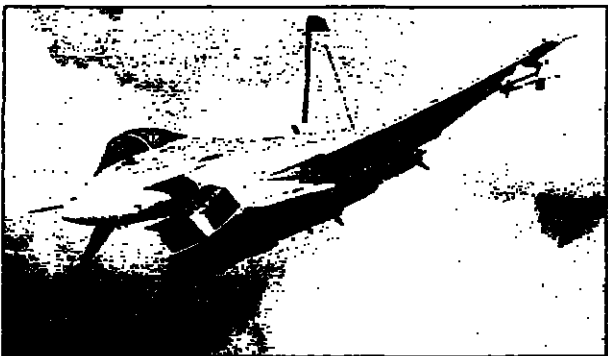
Lieutenant-Colonel Johann Koeck of the Luftwaffe, commander of the only Western squadron to fly MiG29s, said that the Russian fighter was almost unusable in all but a handful of operational scenarios.

James Defence Weekly reported that Colonel Koeck, squadron commander of the Luftwaffe's Fighter Wing 73, which has been flying MiG29s transferred from the then East German Air Force for five years, was unimpressed. "Colonel Koeck's criticisms are particularly damning given the much-vaunted capabilities ascribed to the fighter by Western threat-analysis prior to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991," the report says.

Colonel Koeck said that he found the aircraft unreliable, its radar, he said, was difficult



The MiG29 has been flown by a Luftwaffe squadron



The Eurofighter: developed as a response to MiG29

to maintain and lacked adequate look-down shoot-down capability. However, in close combat, the MiG29 was the "best of the best" because of its superb aerodynamics, infrared search and track system and its All Archer dogfight missile.

The MiG29 entered service in 1983 and was acquired by the Luftwaffe after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The

Luftwaffe's MiG29s are due to be phased out around 2005 and replaced by the Eurofighter, which is a joint British, German, Italian and Spanish project.

While developing the Eurofighter, which will cost Britain more than £15 billion, the Ministry of Defence compared the RAF's future requirements for a combat aircraft with the capabilities of the MiG29, the

Su37 Flanker, the Su31 and possible future derivatives.

Following the critical comments about the MiG29, sources at British Aerospace, which is developing the Eurofighter at its factory at Warton in Lancashire, said that the MiG29 was never seen as the principal threat to Nato air forces. They said that the Russians had improved the MiG29 since the Luftwaffe had acquired their planes and stressed that it was unlikely the former East German air force had been given the best of the MiG29s.

The main threat faced by the Eurofighter would be a derivative of the Su37 Flanker, the sources said. The Flanker, like the MiG29, is being sold by the Russians around the world and could "end up in potentially hostile hands". The latest version of the Su37 was displayed at the Farnborough airshow last month and proved to be one of the stars. With its twin movable nozzles, the Russian pilot was able to stop the plane in a vertical position for several seconds before rolling backwards in a somersault.

Despite the Su37's extraordinary acrobatics, the British Aerospace sources said that the Eurofighter, which is due to come into service with the RAF from about 2002, would still have the edge because of its acceleration, its manoeuvrability and its superior weapon systems.



Panzers pull out of Wales

German tank crews bade farewell to the people of Pembrokeshire with a parade yesterday as they departed from the training ranges they have used since 1961. A veteran Mk1 Leopard tank was unveiled to stand in commemoration at Castlemartin as senior officers from the British and German Armies attended a church service and said final goodbyes. About 84,000 German troops have

trained at Castlemartin and some lived locally with their families. Nearly 150 soldiers married Welsh women during the Germans' 35-year association with

the area. The Panzers' withdrawal comes after defence cuts in the German Army. German reunification and the end of the Cold War have also meant that tank crews can now train closer to home. In the former East Germany, Lieutenant-Colonel Jörg Scholten, liaison officer at the base, said yesterday: "We're sad to be leaving because of the friendliness we have found here."

Irish minister faces claims of infected blood cover-up

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL NOONAN, the Irish Health Minister, will face opposition allegations in the Dail this afternoon of a cover-up on how 1,600 women were infected with hepatitis C. One woman has since died.

The women were infected 20 years ago by contaminated products from the Blood Transfusion Services Board, the state blood bank, given to overcome the potentially fatal risks of pregnant women with rhesus positive blood having a rhesus negative baby. In such instances, the mother's antibodies can kill the child.

But many batches of anti-D immunoglobulin used to prevent the problem came from a woman later discovered to be infected with hepatitis C, which can cause liver failure. The female plasma donor was jaundiced but tested negative for hepatitis A and B; hepatitis C was not formally identified until 1989 and the blood bank



Noonan said inquiry would not be ignored

continued using her blood. However, it made no attempt to contact the infected women until 1993, when a doctor in Cork established a link between anti-D and hepatitis C. Brigid McCole, 54, a mother of 12, died last month, days before her legal action against the Irish Government and the

blood bank came before the High Court. Within hours of her death, her family was offered an out-of-court settlement for £175,000. The blood bank admitted liability and apologised.

Other sufferers had already settled with a government tribunal, which paid between £200,000 and £500,000 without admitting liability. Ireland is the only country in the world to have established a compensation procedure for hepatitis C victims; there are tens of thousands of sufferers in Britain and France, but liability has never been admitted.

Mr Noonan, who announced last week that a tribunal of inquiry would be set up, said there would be no attempts to dismiss its findings. "When the judge reports after the judicial inquiry... let the chips fall wherever the chips fall."

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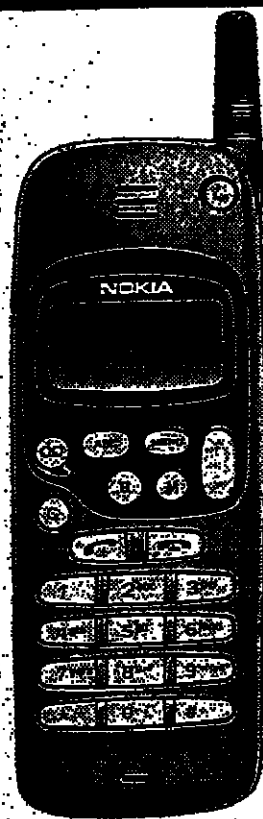
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DIAL-A-PHONE

Retrial for Salvation Army case

Stuart Ford, 45, a financial adviser from Finchley, north London, accused of stealing £1.2 million from the Salvation Army, is to be retried. A new hearing was ordered after a jury at Southwark Crown Court cleared him of two of 23 counts of theft but failed to reach verdicts on the remainder. He allegedly stole the cash during an investment programme.

Moore sale

Works by Degas, Manet, Renoir, Vuillard and Courbet, belonging to the Henry Moore Foundation, are expected to be sold for about £1.5 million at Sotheby's in London on December 3.

Teenagers held

Two 14-year-olds have been arrested after an attack on a 90-year-old widow as she returned home from church in Ealing, west London, on Sunday. Nellie Maschke lost her sight in one eye.

Sunday drinking

Polls to decide whether pubs can open on Sundays will be held on November 6 in two Welsh counties, Gwynedd and Rhondda Cynon Taf. Licensing laws allow a poll to be held every seven years.

FA medal stolen

Burglars stole a 1902 FA Cup medal from William Barnes, 85, of Bath. It was awarded to his father, W.E. Barnes, who scored the winner when Sheffield United beat Southampton 2-1 at Crystal Palace.

مركز التجميل

Former SAS officer pips First Sea Lord to maintain army tradition

General Guthrie wins top post in Services

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Sir Charles Guthrie, head of the Army, was confirmed yesterday as the next Chief of the Defence Staff, despite a campaign by a former Royal Navy chief to have the present First Sea Lord promoted to Britain's top military appointment.

Sir Charles, a sharp but affable commander, will succeed Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge when he retires next April. The appointment, which was announced yesterday after approval from the Queen, will mean that Sir Charles will have followed directly in the career footsteps of Sir Peter for seven posts. He took over from Sir Peter as Chief of the General Staff in March 1994.

Sir Charles, a former SAS officer, will be the first Chief of the Defence Staff not to be promoted to a five-star rank. Instead of moving up to field marshal he will remain a general, although the Minis-

try of Defence will be recommending to the Top Salaries Review Body that he should be paid on a higher scale than his fellow four-star generals.

Sir Peter Inge, 63, earns £124,639 a year, rising to £125,850 in December. By comparison, General Guthrie earns £100,255 from his present post, rising to £101,230 in December.

The only other shortlisted candidate was Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. The two other names on the original list were Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Force, and Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff.

Senior MoD sources said that Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, had spent several months considering the shortlist. They said the Navy had "a very strong candidate indeed". However,



Inge to retire next April after three years in post

Defence Staff, said Mr Portillo was wrong not to appoint Sir Jock. The late Lord Fieldhouse was the last Navy man to hold the post in 1988.

Lord Hill-Norton said: "I don't know General Guthrie — I'm told he's a first-rate chap — but Jock Slater is a star. His experience should have weighed strongly in his favour. But Mr Portillo seems to think that most of the action is in Bosnia and Northern Ireland and so it's right to appoint someone from the Army. I think it's bad news for the country and for the Navy."

General Guthrie, 57, has a reputation for being a charming and smooth operator who has acquired the necessary Whitehall skills to deal with ministers and civil servants.

He was commissioned into the Welsh Guards in 1959 and became a troop commander with 22nd Special Air Service Regiment seven years later.

He returned to the Welsh Guards in 1970 to command a mechanised infantry company



General Sir Charles Guthrie is well versed in the political skills needed to deal with ministers

before attending the Staff College at Camberley. He commanded the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in 1977 in Berlin and Northern Ireland.

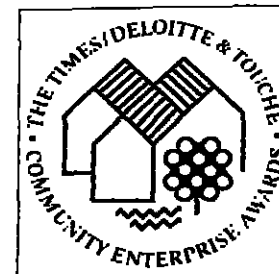
His rise through the Army led to him becoming Assistant Chief of the General Staff in 1987 and took command of the 1st British Corps in October

1989. He was promoted to Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine in 1992. He is married to Kate and has two sons, David and Andrew. He is a keen skier, horseman and tennis player.

The name of the next Chief of the General Staff will be announced next month.

Contest seeks schemes that enrich local communities

BY JOHN YOUNG



THE eleventh annual Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Deloitte & Touche, are launched today with prizes worth more than £20,000. Their aim is to publicise outstanding examples of local people working with companies in their neighbourhoods to establish amenities and improve the quality of life.

Among the achievements of previous award winners are job creation and the establishment of businesses employing local people. They have set up housing co-operatives and built accommodation for the homeless; others have improved the environment and developed community facilities ranging from kindergartens to adult education classes.

Last year's overall winner was the Old Chapel Housing and Community Trust in Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. In the former mining town hit by 25 per cent unemployment, the trust has established four houses and a hostel for homeless young people. It has won support from charities, businesses and local authorities. This year for the first

time the awards will be made regionally. Two winners will be found in each of eight English regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, one for projects with a turnover of less than £50,000 and one for those above. Entries are invited from individuals, community organisations, businesses, local authorities or any other group for projects completed between January 1, 1991, and October 1 this year. The closing date is December 31.

The regional award winners will be announced next March and the Charles Douglas-Horne Award for the overall winner will be presented in May.

Entry forms may be obtained from The Community Enterprise Awards, Business in the Community, 44 Baker Street, London W1M 1DH.

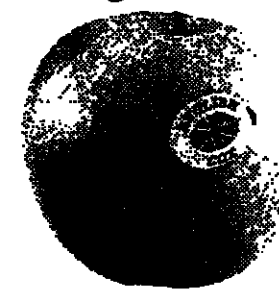
A message from
HRH the Prince of Wales,
chairman of the awards

Having been involved in the ten years the awards have been running, I have come to recognise the vital importance of local community involvement in the design and management of programmes and facilities to meet local needs. Over the years the term "community enterprise" has become commonplace and its contribution to social and economic regeneration irreplaceable.

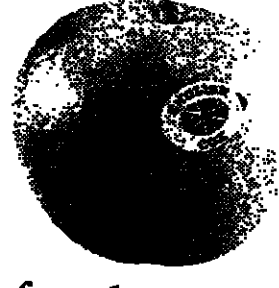
The awards have brought national acknowledgement to a number of local heroes and heroines otherwise known as community entrepreneurs. These individuals have helped to transform the communities and cities in which they live.



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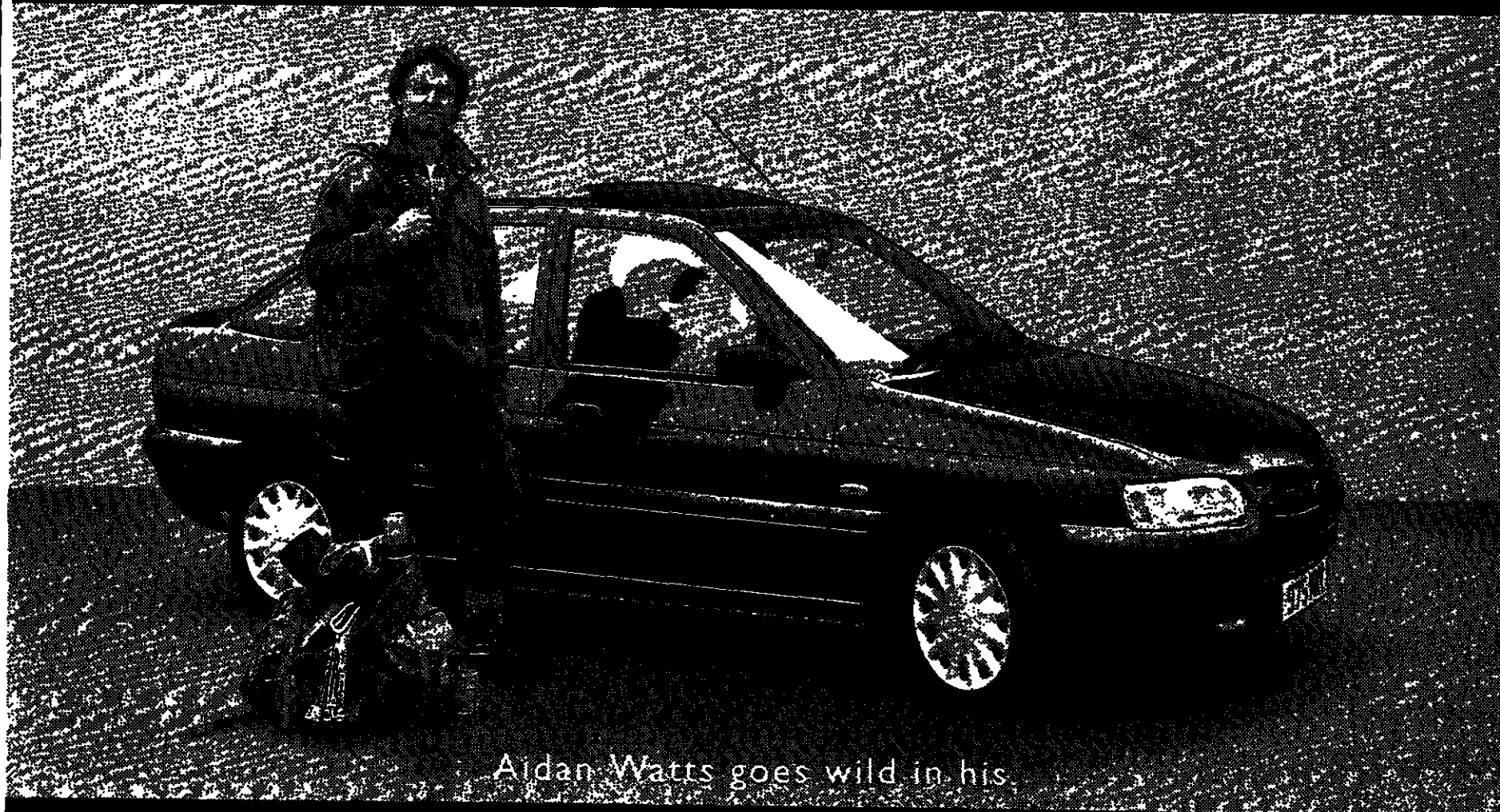


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Pro-Europe Tories mock Goldsmith's 'Napoleonic ego'

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH has a Napoleonic ego and his Referendum Party is nothing but a rump of disgruntled Tories and neo-nationalists, according to his pro-European critics.

The attack comes in a pamphlet by the Bow Group, a Tory research organisation that has made the first detailed analysis of Sir James's speech to businessmen in June, known as the Newcastle Manifesto. It will be published on Friday, as the Referendum Party prepares for its conference on Saturday.

Napoleon or Ross Perot? is written by Michael Welsh, the former Tory MEP who is chief executive of the Action Centre for Europe. Mr Welsh says that Sir James is more dangerous than the maverick US presidential candidate and bears greater comparison to the French emperor. So exaggerated is Sir James's claim to have a special rapport with the European people that "there are signs of an ego of Napoleonic dimensions".

He accuses Sir James of misinterpreting the European Union's history, saying that his "superficially plausible" case for a referendum on Europe is aimed at "stirring

the patriotic instincts of the British people" and does not stand up to critical analysis.

The Referendum Party has no political programme, but merely a collection of populist slogans. "This is single-issue politics at its most extreme. The extreme naivety of Goldsmith's proposals for the future of the EU suggests that he has failed to think through his positions in any detail."

He continues: "Given that lack of substance, the Referendum Party is likely to prove as ephemeral as any other single-issue protest movement and unlikely to make any real impact in a general election."

Yesterday his analysis was backed by Edwina Currie and other pro-European Tory MPs. Mrs Currie, MP for Derbyshire South, said that she was delighted that the party was finally exposing Sir James and urged Brian Mawhinney, the chairman, to make clear that Tories could not be members of two parties. "Sir James is a malcontent, bored and rich man, set on making mischief," she said. "His party can do a lot of damage both to the Conservative Party and our country's position in Europe."

Mr Welsh rejects Sir

James's claims that the British people were conned into joining the EEC by a conspiracy of the political elite. He says it was always made clear that EEC membership would involve some loss of sovereignty and had a political, as well as economic, dimension. He gives warning of the "hazards of a plebiscite" in a mature democracy and asks why Sir James, who backed EU membership in the original 1975 referendum, should now distrust that judgment.

He also rejects Sir James's claim that the European Commission's annual £200 million budget for "pro-European propaganda" outweighs his own £20 million. The £200 million, he says, pays for the European equivalent of Hansard, Parliament's official report, and other formal documents, not pro-Brussels advertising.

Mr Welsh accuses the Referendum Party of failing to address the serious consequences of Britain leaving the EU and dismisses the suggestion that Britain could rejoin the European Free Trade Area. He says that Sir James's planned reforms of the EU — to strengthen the Council of Ministers and emasculate the European Commission, Par-



liament and Court — demonstrated a "profound misunderstanding of the role of the institutions and a cavalier disregard for the realities of inter-state co-operation".

He rejects Sir James's charge that the Government lost its economic indepen-

dence under the Maastricht treaty. Mr Welsh says the sovereignty was lost under the Single European Act, signed by Margaret Thatcher, which ensured that Europe's economies were run as a common concern. "There can be no single market if each partner

pursues an independent economic policy regardless of the interests of the others."

EU membership without the prospect of any common interests would, he said, be like "joining a rugby club with the intention of playing association football".

Labour enjoying a free ride in healthcare debate

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Labour cannot lose on health and the Tories cannot win. No matter that the Major Government has spent an additional £7.7 billion, or 13 per cent in real terms, since the last election on the NHS. Or that the only specific pledge that the Prime Minister has made for the next Parliament is to increase the health budget each year by more than the inflation rate.

The public is unimpressed. It does not believe the health service is safe in Tory hands. According to MORI polls for *The Times*, Labour has a bigger lead on health than on any other issue. A poll in July showed that more than half the public believed that Labour had the best policies on healthcare, and barely a tenth thought the Tories did.

This is why Tony Blair picked the issue for his first confrontation with John Major at Prime Minister's Questions for three months. His carefully crafted soundbite that people "know you cannot ever trust the Tories on the NHS" was timed to reinforce recent stories about NHS financial problems and the decision by Hillingdon Hospital to take no more GP referrals of patients over 75. It was also intended to offset the impact of the Government's White Paper on primary healthcare, which was broadly welcomed yesterday despite opposition worries about GPs being employed by supermarkets or pharmaceutical companies.

Some Tory strategists are fatalistic. The famous leaked memorandum two years ago by John Major, former Tory deputy chairman, argued that ministers should avoid drawing the public's attention to health. Stephen Dorrell does not agree. The main changes were already in place when he took over in July 1995 and he believes there is scope for the Tories to stress the consequent gains. Despite talk of neutralising Labour's advantage on health, the Tories' realistic aim is to narrow the gap — in the same way that Gordon Brown can hope only to reduce, rather than eliminate, public scepti-

cism about Labour pledges not to raise taxes.

Labour's strength in the polls on health has not been matched by a similar strength on policy. The party has a free ride when hospitals have to cut back, or even halt, routine admissions because of financial problems outside their control and when people have to wait hours in accident and emergency departments or be moved around the country. These complaints are real.

Mr Blair can protest about the sins of the internal market, the waste, the mushrooming of managers, and hospitals competing against each other, but Labour has failed to offer a credible alternative. Its pre-manifesto document in July hid the real issues behind talk of developing a "collaborative, long-term approach", though the purchaser-provider split of the reformed structure would be retained under the new terms of planning and providing care. No doubt administrative costs can be cut but the much trumpeted "early" pledge to save £100 million in order to treat 100,000 patients is a gimmicky sleight of hand, when the Tories are spending £1 billion more in the current year. A Blair government might, at best, be able only to alleviate the worst anomalies of the internal market. It would continue the thrust of the NHS reforms with little, if no more, money than currently planned. Labour has so far not matched Mr Major's pledge on health spending.

Mr Blair always claims he will not promise more than he can deliver. But by criticising the Tory health record in such sweeping terms, and hence raising expectations that a Labour government could make a big difference, he risks doing exactly that. The public may always regard Labour as better custodians of the health service than the Tories, but miracle cures are not available.

PETER RIDDELL

Blair adviser proposes scheme for higher pensions

By JILL STIERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leader's social security adviser has put forward a plan to transform the welfare state that would mean lower basic tax rates but higher national insurance contributions.

In a document published today Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, has suggested changes to increase pensions and provide incentives for the unemployed to find work. His proposals aim to provide a guaranteed pension of two thirds of earnings and a care pension to pay

for residential or nursing care. But all those earning more than £100 a week would be required to contribute to a second pension scheme.

Mr Field, appointed in July to advise Mr Blair on tax and benefit reforms, proposes a 5p starting rate of tax and a 19p basic rate offset by higher national insurance contributions. Those earning less than about £15,600 a year would make a net gain, while those earning more would pay more.

People with salaries of more than £30,000 would pay £500 a year more, while those earning £60,000 would pay about £1,000 more. Those

earning £10,000 would gain about £150 a year, but a small group of low-paid workers would pay more because they would be paying national insurance for the first time.

Although Mr Blair might be attracted to Mr Field's radical thinking, he is unlikely to agree to measures that would hit the middle classes and those earning less than the average wage — about £17,000. Yesterday his office merely said: "As always with Frank, he has made a stimulating contribution to the debate on this very important issue."

But Mr Field argues that people are much more likely to accept

paying extra, targeted insurance contributions than higher direct taxes. "Voters will only be able to foot the bill if they have control over where their savings and contributions go," he said yesterday.

As well as the lower tax rates Mr Field proposes an increase of about £400 in the personal allowance. The changes would be funded by a new NHS insurance-based tax that would raise £18 billion — half the present annual costs of the health service. Everyone earning more than £60 a week would be expected to pay a 7 per cent NHS insurance tax.

Under the new insurance propos-

als every worker would be entitled to a state retirement pension. All those earning more than £100 a week who were not in a second pension scheme would be required to save towards that pension. "The aim of this dual pension scheme is to provide each and every worker a minimum pension entitlement of two thirds previous earnings," Mr Field said.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: backbench debates; Scottish questions; Public Accounts Committee reports; health authority deficits. In the Lords: Public Order (Amendment) Bill, committee; accelerated cattle slaughter scheme; Asylum (Designated Countries) Order.

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Poll success of Austrian far Right undermines Prodi's belief in benefits of European integration

Italian discontent grows over drive to adopt the euro

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THREE weeks after the Italian Cabinet adopted a radical deficit-reducing budget in a final dash to meet the Maastricht single-currency criteria, it is dawning on a shocked Italian nation that the cost is too high.

The centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi is facing the first ominous rumblings of popular discontent since it was elected last April. Signor Prodi's office announced yesterday that the Italian leader would hold urgent unscheduled talks on monetary union with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in Bonn tomorrow.

The dramatic gains made by Jörg Haider's far-right anti-Maastricht Freedom Party in Austria's European elections have had a sobering impact on neighbouring Italy, where until recently adherence to European integration was an article of faith. Suddenly the hard questions are being asked.

"A nationalist Euro-sceptical wind is blowing across Europe," *La Repubblica* said yesterday. "We are so fixated on the criteria for the euro that we are failing to confront the other great issues, such as unemployment, immigration and the fight against crime."

A caricature on the cover of *L'Espresso* magazine shows a grimly determined Signor Prodi at the controls of a motorbike, heading for "Euro pile-up", while Massimo D'Alema, the astute leader of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — the former Communist core of the Government — gestures in a different direction from the sidecar.

Sixty per cent of Italians still say they are willing to make "sacrifices" to qualify for the euro. The entry at the weekend of the Finnish markka to the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) was — as *La Repubblica* put it — "a shock to us Mediterraneans, who think of Finland as a remote land of ice and mist".

The Prodi budget, which included a housing tax and a euro levy, was partly designed to undercut moves by Umberto Bossi's Northern League to secede and join economic and monetary union (EMU) separately. It was mainly inspired, however, by fear that fellow southern Europeans — above all the Spanish — would qualify while Italy did not.

At the European Union finance ministers' meeting in Luxembourg this week, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Treasury

and Budget Minister, defended the budget, saying if he had predicted in May that Italy would be aiming to reduce its deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product by next year "they would have taken me off to the madhouse". He insisted that the lira would rejoin the ERM, which it left with sterling in 1992, "by the end of the year".

The end of the year is, however, only ten weeks away. Signor Prodi argues tartly that, if France is allowed "creative accounting", Italy should be too. However, Italians acknowledge that President Chirac tactlessly blurred out what he and Herr Kohl really thought when, on the eve of the Franco-Italian summit in Naples ten days ago, he said Italy would be left behind because of the "unstable lira". Jean Arthuis, the French Finance Minister, said at Luxembourg that the "hasty re-entry" of the lira to the ERM would "risk harm to both the Italian and the European monetary authorities", while Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank chairman, said Europe needed "durable economic convergence" — a coded rebuff to Italian aspirations.

Leading article, page 23



L'Espresso depicts Romano Prodi and Massimo D'Alema, hurtling towards an inevitable "Euro pile-up"

Vienna to campaign against sceptics

FROM ROYAL BOYES IN VIENNA

THE Austrian Government, stunned by the growing popularity of the far Right, is considering ways of boosting the appeal of the European Union and persuading sceptical Austrians of the need for a single currency.

"There has to be more intensive and more open communication, a generally comprehensible message," said Viktor Klima, the Finance Minister, whose party, the Social Democrats, were the worst hit by the European election results at the weekend. "We have to set out in great detail the advantages of European membership."

Jörg Haider, the leader of the far-right Freedom Party, profited from the popular disillusion over European membership, winning 27.6 per cent of the vote.

Above all, the reaction from abroad is prodding the Austrian Government into taking defensive action. Although Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, yesterday dismissed calls to resign, the coalition between Social Democrats and the conservative People's Party has to devise new strategies to increase the popularity of Europe and to halt the rise of Herr Haider.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was said yesterday to be "deeply concerned" about the electoral success of Herr Haider, who has set his sights on being leader of Austria by 1999 and would be within reach of his goal if he boosts his share of the vote from this weekend's 28 per cent to some 33 per cent.

"All the European finance ministers asked about only one thing — Haider," Herr Klima said after a European ministerial meeting in Luxembourg. The coincidence of the shrinking of the Centre and the apparently unstoppable rise of the Right is deeply worrying to foreign observers.

French Fourth Estate stages 24-hour strike in protest at loss of tax perk

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH journalists, enraged at plans to eliminate their traditional tax perks, went on a 24-hour strike yesterday, reducing radio and television news coverage to a bare minimum and preventing the publication of today's edition of many national and regional newspapers. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, insisted the Government would not

back down from its pledge to scrap tax concessions for more than 100 professions, including a 30 per cent income tax deduction for journalists dating back to 1934.

But in an apparent attempt to calm the situation, M Juppé issued a vague statement saying that he had ordered Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, "to see that the move does not worsen certain situations in professions now benefiting from this rebate".

All of France's main journalists' unions supported the strike, insisting that the tax concession is an accepted part of journalists' salaries and claiming that a reporter earning the average wage of £1,600 a month would forfeit the equivalent of a month's pay if the tax reform goes through.

Several regional newspapers and journalists reporting on the French parliament have also threatened to stop coverage of politicians who

vote in favour of removing their privileged tax status.

Staff at *Le Monde* voted not to join the protest, but unions at most other leading French newspapers, including *Le Figaro*, *Libération* and *Le Parisien*, voted to strike. State-owned radio and television channels provided a skeleton news service while the news radio station France-Info was largely replaced by music.

Tax reform is just one incendiary

element in a 1997 budget aimed at reducing spending and cutting the deficit to ensure France qualifies to join European monetary union.

The journalists' strike yesterday was a foretaste of tomorrow's general strike when civil servants, teachers, rail and power workers are all expected to stop work in protest at government austerity policies, planned job cuts and rising unemployment.

Some MPs have accused protest-

ing journalists of unconstitutional behaviour and attempted blackmail, but others, apparently fearing a media boycott, have tabled amendments to the tax reform Bill.

Government officials say they are confident tomorrow's 24-hour strike is an isolated, one-off protest rather than the precursor to another winter of discontent. But last year's unrest also began with a one-day strike and government protestations of confidence.

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Panicky Taleban braced for big attack on Kabul

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

KABUL waited nervously yesterday for news of war. Its one million citizens do not know if they are to be invaded immediately or later. The tension shows on the faces of Taleban soldiers in the streets: their mood is ugly and they have discarded the plastic flowers fixed to their guns after they seized the capital.

General Ahmed Shah Masood, defence chief of the former government ousted by Taleban nearly three weeks ago, is fighting for control of the important Bagram military airbase north of the capital. Its fall seems inevitable. That will finally drive Taleban back to Kabul, which has a formidable armoury of anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers and heavy artillery. General Masood's alliance with General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern warlord, is crucial to what happens next. General Masood could not retake Kabul alone by conventional military means. There are doubts about General Dostum's intentions: his primary interest has always been the preservation of his successful fiefdom and, so long as that is safe, he may decline to join any assault on Kabul.

General Dostum's name

comes from the Urdu for friend, *dost*. A *dostum* is everybody's friend — an appropriate name for a warlord who is willing to befriend anybody who will help to keep his empire intact. He has changed sides at least three times in Afghanistan's recent warmongering and has broken deals as fast as he has made them.

General Masood may decide on a longer-term strategy to retake Kabul. He could move against softer targets first — the crucial town of Sarobi, east of Kabul, would be a logical first step since it straddles the vital supply road from the Khyber Pass. The western city of Herat, which is largely Tajik and resents the Pashtun-dominated Taleban rulers, would be ripe for subversion.

Taleban has alienated Kabul with its Islamic dogma, and General Masood could exploit this popular dissatisfaction simply by letting it grow. A small ammunition dump blew up a few days ago. It is not known if it was sabotage, but Taleban soldiers were in such a panic they started shooting at each other. Such are the tensions. The people no longer greet the fighters as they did when they

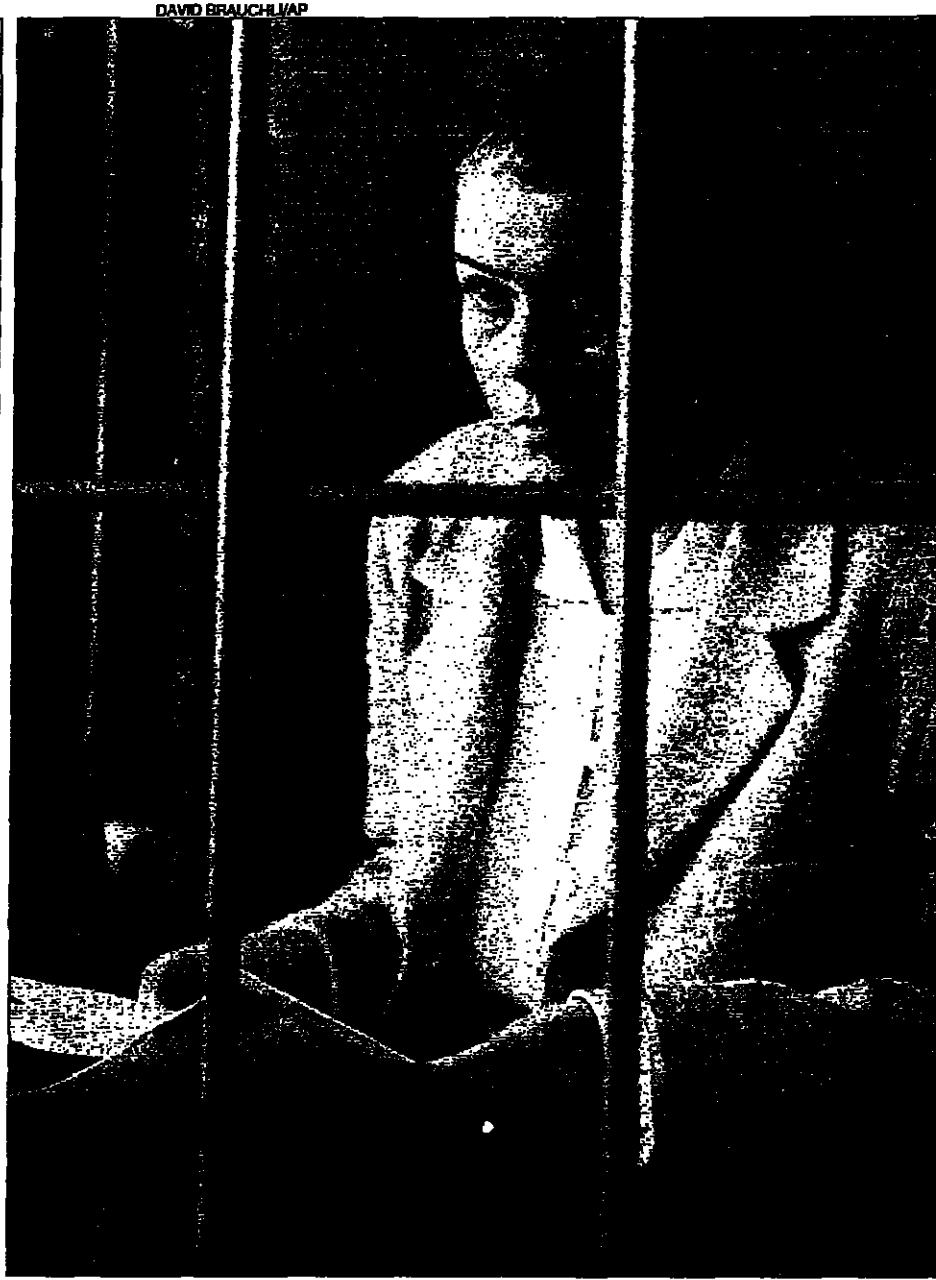
arrived and the gunmen are increasingly surly.

Pakistan sent a high-level emissary to Afghanistan yesterday for talks with Taleban, which it has supported despite persistent denials. A group of ten gunmen dressed as Talebs responded to a question addressed to them in Urdu a few days ago, until they realised their mistake and fell silent.

Pakistan, used as a conduit by the United States for billions of dollars to arm the Mujahidin guerrillas fighting the Soviet occupation in the 1980s, may have once more backed the wrong horse. Since the end of the Cold War the former Mujahidin have destabilised the region with their drugs, guns and warfare.

Pakistan hoped Taleban would bring peace and unity to its neighbour, and the United States hoped the Islamic warriors would oppose the drugs trade — Afghanistan rivals Burma as the largest producer of raw opium. Instead, drugs production in Taleban areas has risen significantly, according to United Nations sources.

Afghans under Taleban may lose a limb for taking drugs, but it is apparently acceptable to produce heroin for the West's non-Muslims.



Karen Henderson in court yesterday. She could be sent to a labour camp if found guilty

British girl faces Moscow judges on drugs charge

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A TEENAGE British girl, charged with cocaine smuggling and facing several years in a Russian labour camp if found guilty, pleaded her innocence yesterday in a Moscow courtroom.

From behind the bars of a steel cage, Karen Henderson, 18, told the court that she had been tricked into carrying 10lb of cocaine in her luggage on a flight from Havana to Poland via Moscow.

Russian customs officers arrested Miss Henderson and Suzanne Gerada, a Dutch passenger, on February 6 after discovering the drugs packed into false bottoms in their suitcases.

Gerada pleaded guilty to the smuggling charges and was sentenced to six years' labour in a prison camp.

Miss Henderson, who remained calm and confident during the hearing, insisted that she had been tricked by a man at Havana airport who sold her a new suitcase, containing the drug, after her old suitcase had broken.

Since her arrest she has been held in Moscow's notorious Butyrka remand prison, which houses 7,000 inmates — double the number it was designed to hold.

If convicted, Miss Henderson could be sent to a labour camp for foreigners in Mordovia, a region east of Moscow which was infamous

as a prison colony in the days of Soviet rule.

Yesterday's proceedings in the tiny Moscow regional courtroom, which was packed with relatives, British consular officials and journalists, ranged from the farcical to the tragic.

On a number of occasions, Miss Henderson had to ask for the proceedings to be halted because her court-appointed interpreter could not keep up with the testimony and examination, or had mis-translated the discussions.

One of the three judges on the panel slept quite soundly through most of the hearing, even though he will be expected to vote on the verdict and sentence as early as today.

The defendant's mother, Patricia Henderson, called as a character witness, insisted that her daughter had never used drugs and had never been in trouble with the police. She said her daughter had a trusting nature, which could have led to her being tricked. "Please, please let her come home with us," she pleaded.

Hugh Henderson, her father, sat impassively at the back of the court. He said before yesterday's proceedings that he was at a loss to explain what had happened.

"I love Karen dearly," he said. "To me she is just a child. I will do anything I can to help her."

Church moves to canonise shot tsar and his family

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEARLY 80 years after Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and five children were executed by the Bolsheviks, the Russian Orthodox Church has taken the first steps to have the country's last royal family canonised.

At the latest meeting of the Church's Holy Synod in Moscow, senior clerics have been hearing the findings of a study into the proposal that the entire royal family should be declared saints. Although it could be months before a decision, the move has caused a dispute between supporters of the monarchy and Communists, who regard the entire process as a politically inspired propaganda ploy.

Father Aleksandr Bulyakov, for the Moscow patriarchate, said that the whole Church had to be consulted before the proposal went before the Archbishops' Convocation in February for a preliminary decision. "The Church does not want any dissent on this," he said. "It must have unanimous approval."

The debate is likely to centre on the lives and the deaths of



The Tsar and his Tsarina: church wants unanimity

the last Romanovs. Tsar Nicholas abdicated in March 1917 as the country slid into civil war. He was taken to the Urals city of Yekaterinburg where he was held in the house of a local merchant. In July 1918 the Tsar, his wife Tsarina Alexandra, Crown Prince Alexei and Princesses Olga, Tatyana, Anastasia and Marie were shot and bayoneted to death with the family doctor and three servants.

Advocates of the canonisation say that the last monarch acted with saintly devotion to God and his country. "He relinquished power for the good of his country. He stayed in Russia rather than fleeing," Archimandrite Platon Igumnov told the *Moscow Times*.

However, Irina Makaveyeva, a spokesman for the Communist Party, said that she and many Russians regarded Nicholas II as a traitor who had abdicated when the country was in difficulties and had remained in his homeland only because Britain would not accept him.

Spanish youth stay at home

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

MORE young Spanish adults than ever before are remaining in the parental home as unemployment grows, a recent study has shown.

Revealing a sharp reversal of Western trends, the Institute of Youth has found that 52 per cent of all Spaniards aged between 25 and 30 years now live with their parents, almost twice the number that did so a decade ago. Of those aged between 16 and 30, the study finds, 80 per cent have not yet left home.

Spain has a larger percentage of "adult young" living with their parents than anywhere else in the developed world. The reasons for this are not difficult to discern. Unemployment in Spain is at Europe's highest level, with one in four members of the workforce officially jobless.

The unemployment rate for those under 30 is almost twice that.

Property prices, particularly in metropolitan areas, tend to be as high as those in Britain. The rental market, too, offers poor prospects.

Yet although the study shows that two-thirds of those aged between 25 and 30 lack "economic autonomy", the impoverished are not the only ones who tend to stay at home. Several Spaniards in full-time employment are also aware that living at home can ensure a higher quality of life than living on one's own.

Margarta, 57, a Madrid cleaner, said: "My son earns enough to buy his own flat and move out, but why should he? I provide a better domestic service for him than he would get anywhere else. He

can spend his salary on his car, his clothes and his girlfriend."

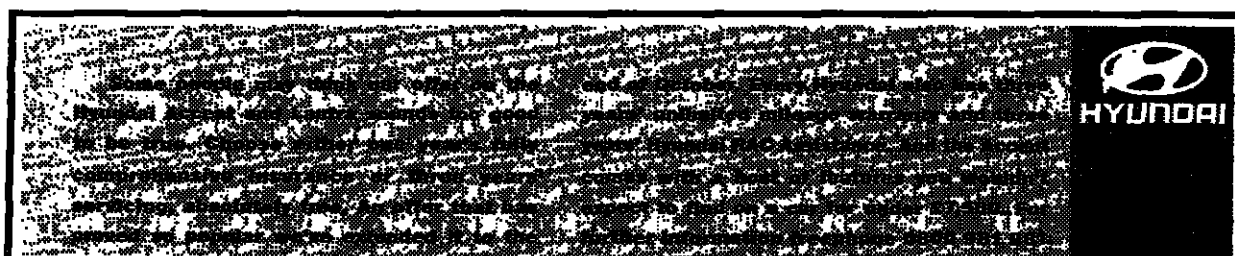
Since "emancipation" from the parental home has traditionally come with marriage, the stay-at-home statistics have also been boosted by the fact that Spanish men and women are now marrying later than ever.

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Dole gets personal as funding row engulfs Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

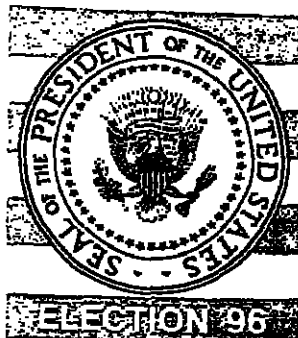
BOB DOLE will face President Clinton in the second and final presidential debate tonight after launching an attack on the President's ethics in a last-ditch effort to turn the race around.

Fuelling Mr Dole's attack was a burgeoning scandal involving huge, highly dubious contributions to the Democratic Party and Mr Clinton's re-election campaign from wealthy Indonesians.

Republicans have been competing the tawdry but complex affair for several days, demanding a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate, but only yesterday did the story pick up momentum when it led television news bulletins and crept on to the front pages of several leading newspapers.

Mr Dole, fearful of resurrecting his old "hatchet man" image, has long equivocated about directly attacking Mr Clinton. His wife, Elizabeth, has reportedly said that if he is to lose he should do so with dignity. On Monday, however, he threw caution aside.

At a Kansas City rally he mocked Mr Clinton's claims to an ethical Administration, noting: "Over 30 people gone. They're in jail or they're indicted or they're out of there. He insisted that Mr Clinton



TELEVISION '96

unambiguously rule out presidential pardons for convicted Whitewater business associates who might otherwise cooperate with Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor. He also compared the White House's improper acquisition of hundreds of FBI files on Republican officials to Watergate.

The Dole campaign published some searching questions about the Indonesian campaign contributions. "Not some slip, slide and duck. Mr President. Just answer the questions," Mr Dole demanded.

Unlike the first debate, tonight's has a "town-hall" format where 120 randomly selected Californians sit around the stage and ask the questions. Mr Dole cannot control the issues raised, and strident attacks could badly backfire in such an intimate setting.

Mr Dole is also vulnerable himself. He has done count-

less favours for important campaign contributors during his 35 years in Congress, grown wealthy through means unavailable to ordinary Americans, and was one of President Nixon's staunchest defenders during Watergate. He vigorously defended President Ford's subsequent pardon of Mr Nixon.

The most controversial Indonesian contributions, totalling \$425,000 (£275,000) over seven months, were made by Airef and Suraya Wiradinata, an Indonesian couple of apparently modest means living in Washington's Virginia suburbs.

Contributions from foreigners are legal provided they are American residents. However, Republicans insist the Wiradinatas were merely a front for the Lippo Group, a vast Indonesian conglomerate run by the Ruddy family, whose links with Mr Clinton date back to his Arkansas days.

The contributions were solicited by John Huang, a former Lippo executive who was given a sensitive Commerce Department post dealing with international economic policy in 1994 and later became a Democratic Party fundraiser.

The Wiradinatas are now incommunicado in Indonesia. Mr Huang will answer only written questions. The White House flatly insists no laws were broken.



Bob Dole, left, and Jack Kemp, his running-mate, show a San Diego rally a picture of Mr Dole as a young soldier

Remodelled First Lady takes to the road

FROM TOM RHODES
IN CHICAGO

HILLARY CLINTON spent half an hour in the grandiose Chicago ballroom before she was whisked away to another loyal audience in another state to the strains of *Sweet Home Chicago*, the tune she adopted in her native city.

Mrs Clinton left behind adoring supporters and frustrated journalists. The fundraising event in Chicago offered the Clinton imprimatur for Dick Durbin, the Democratic Senate candidate. Four or five days a week Mrs Clinton is crisscrossing America by stealth, addressing

pre-selected groups from Illinois to Florida, Connecticut to California. Yesterday it was Arizona. Today she joins her husband for the presidential debate in San Diego. On Friday it will be New Hampshire.

The schedule is released only at the last minute and no member of the media is allowed on her plane. Indeed following Mrs Clinton offers a challenging respite to the publicity-conscious campaign of Elizabeth Dole, wife of the Republican candidate, Bob Dole.

National opinion is divided. Fifty per cent of the electorate, mostly women, view Mrs Clinton as a global role model

and cite misogyny as the cause of her troubles. Almost as many view her as a martinet and congenial liar whose hand is behind every scandal that has plagued Bill Clinton's ascendancy from Arkansas to the White House. There is talk of her indictment by Whitewater prosecutors next year. In short, she has become the most potent factor in his re-election.

Her carefully-scripted speeches have reined in the liberal ideology that marked her first two years in Washington and proved so disastrous for Mr Clinton at the mid-term elections in 1994. In twinset and pearls, this is Hillary the asset, rather than Hillary the liability.

Raids fail to destroy Saddam's missiles

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

IRAQ repaired its surface-to-air missile system within two weeks of being bombed with £32 million of American cruise missiles, a senior defence official has claimed.

It would take "a flip of the switch" for Iraq to be able to threaten aircraft patrolling a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, the unnamed official told *The Washington Post*.

On September 2 and 3, American forces attacked Iraqi air defences with 44 cruise missiles after President Saddam Hussein of Iraq sent his forces into Kurdish-held northern Iraq. General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said afterwards: "We have warned Saddam Hussein that any attempt to repair those sites... will be taken very seriously."

It now appears that the sites may not have been as badly damaged as thought, or that Iraq's ability to rebuild its capacity is better than believed. Republicans have criticised the Clinton Administration for wasting millions of dollars on ineffective attacks.

The official emphasised that there was no sign that Iraq plans offensive use of its surface-to-air radar or Soviet-made missiles. The United States has not taken further action partly because Iraq has complied with demands such as removing mobile missile units from the no-fly zone.

Lourdes Maria and her Madonna doing well

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

BURDENED with instant celebrity and an unusual name, Madonna's first child, a girl, was born without complications at a Los Angeles hospital on Monday afternoon.

Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon weighed 6lb 9oz as she entered her mother's world of global fame and closely guarded privacy.

The arrival of the "showbiz baby of the year" was confirmed by the father of a convicted felon. Dr Paul Fleiss, a paediatrician whose daughter, Heidi, ran a Hollywood callgirl ring, supervised the delivery at the singer's request. Mobbed by cameras, he emerged from the Good Samaritan Hospital late on Monday. Dr Fleiss confirmed the birth and his role in it and said it had been natural, not by Caesarean section, as had been rumoured.

Madonna, 38, has given no



Madonna: Carlos Leon was at her bedside

indication whether she plans to marry the girl's father, Carlos Leon, 30, although her publicist said he was at the star's bedside for the birth.

Suggestions that the Material Girl's foray into parenthood was for "shock value" or that she had "used the father as a stud service" are wide of the

mark, she wrote in a recently published diary, adding: "These are comments only a man would make."

In fact, she inspired such talk by joking on television last year that she was considering advertising for candidates for the "fatherhood gig". In the end, she lighted on Mr Leon, a Cuban-born fitness club manager, after bumping into him while jogging in New York's Central Park two years ago. The star spent most of her pregnancy filming *Evita* in Argentina, Hungary and London, but found time to dine with Mr Leon's family in Miami.

Madonna's past is anything but maternal. She exploded onto the pop scene in the early 1980s as a mincing nymphet, and maintained her fame with pointed bras and pornographic picture books.

In the Magazine on Saturday: Madonna on the making of *Evita*

Antarctic job for FBI as chefs get in a stew

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

FBI agents have been sent to Antarctica after a squabble between cooks at an American base there.

Three agents this week went to McMurdo Sound, site of America's Antarctic base, to investigate what could become a landmark case for the south polar continent. Seven nations claim territorial rights to Antarctica, but since a 1961 treaty these have been placed on ice, as it were, in the name of scientific endeavour and global goodwill.

The arrival of FBI agents, along with a solitary Australian official, could create a legal precedent for the policing of the 5.5 million square mile land mass. Details of the incident in the McMurdo Sound kitchen were foggy, but one cook, equipped with an ice axe, was said to have attempted to bury it in the head of a colleague. A third cook joined in, possibly to separate the two combatants.

Two chefs, named as Tony Beyer and Joe Sterner, were hurt in the alleged attack and required stitches. Another man, who was not named, was being held in custody, pending the arrival of the FBI officials.

An FBI spokesman in Washington yesterday refused to comment on the case, but the American move will be watched with interest by the Governments of Britain, Norway, France, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Argentina, which have all made claims on the region.



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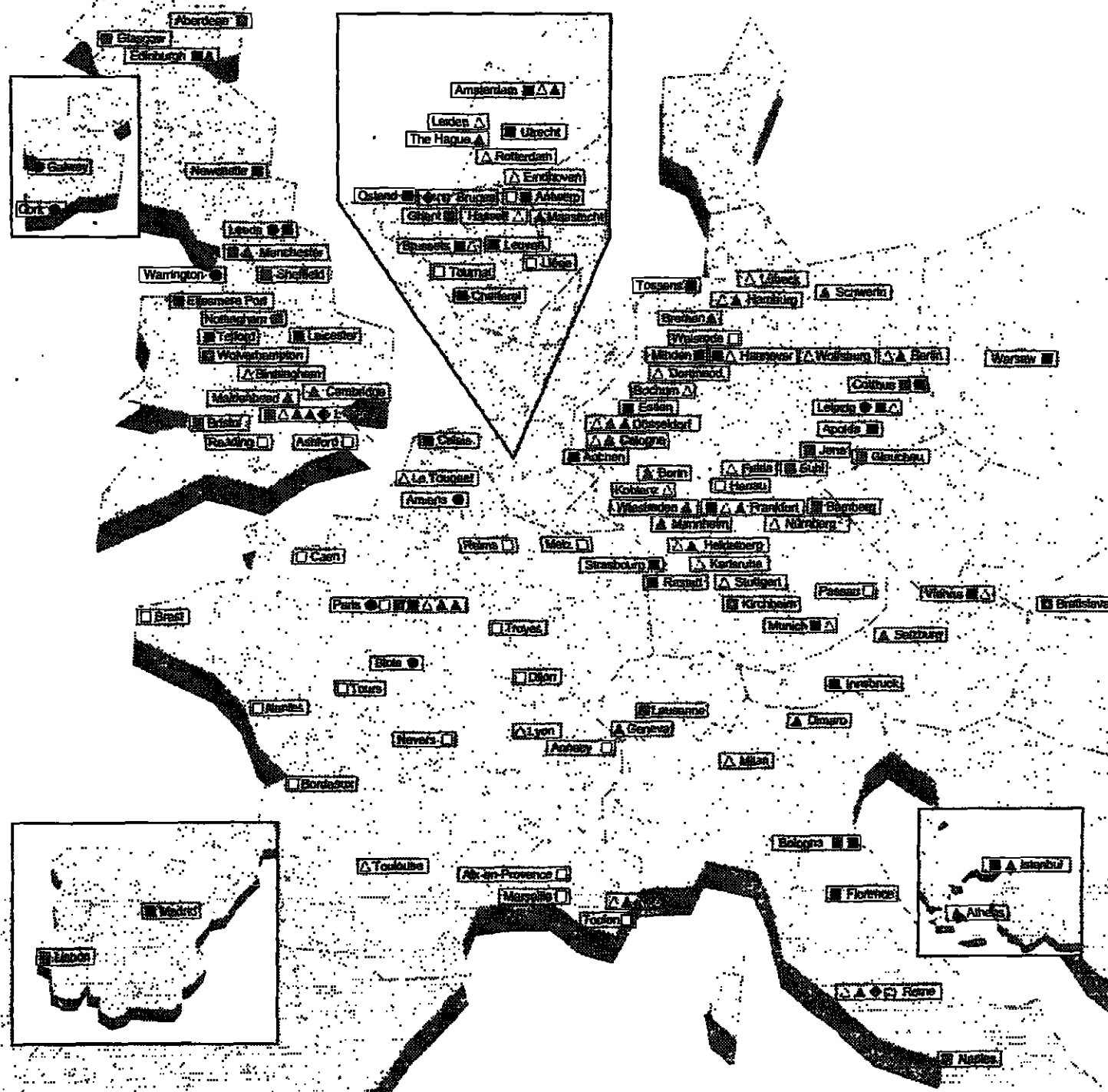
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'Striptease' Sandinista chief lures back voters

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MANAGUA

SIX years after Nicaraguans voted the Sandinista Front for National Liberation out of office, Daniel Ortega, the former President, is staging a remarkable comeback as the country returns to the polls next Sunday.

After trailing badly early in the campaign, the election race has tightened, with Señor Ortega now nearly even with the favourite, Arnaldo Alemán, the former Mayor of Managua and a bitter Sandinista foe.

Repackaged as the candidate of peace, Señor Ortega, 49, is running a slick campaign. Seeking to make amends for the policies that alienated many voters in 1990, he has brought his message of reconciliation to far-flung rural corners of this impoverished nation of four million.

During the 1980s, when the United States feared the spread of communism in Latin America, few left-wing leaders got more under Washington's skin than Señor Ortega. "A tinpot dictator," Ronald Reagan called him; George Bush once said that he was a "skunk" at the garden party of democracy.

But today the Marxist rhetoric is gone. The Sandinistas have changed their tune, replacing the party's revolutionary anthem, which vowed to "fight against the Yankee, enemies of humanity", with Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*.

"It is working," says Oscar Rene Vargas, a political analyst. "The Sandinistas have been able to change the image of Ortega from an aggressive figure to a saintly man." Dressed in white on the campaign trail, Señor Ortega says he feels the pain of those worst affected by the country's civil war. "I have also suffered," he told one rally, referring to the seven years he spent in jail

and the comrades killed, including his youngest brother.

"We cannot go on living with hatred and grudges," he said. "We are a family that was divided. Now it is time to unite again," he added as girls waved red-and-black pom-poms before a banner bearing his name and a big red heart with an arrow through it.

Critics say the Sandinista changes are more apparent than real. Few have forgotten the plundering of Nicaragua's national treasury by Sandinista bosses during their final days in office in 1990. Overnight the *comandantes* became wealthy men, running an empire of secret front companies, including banks, insurance companies, import-export businesses and large coffee and cattle farms.

Señor Ortega has also caused offence by his attempted last-ditch alliances with former enemies, including landowners, church leaders and even members of the US-backed Contra army which waged a bloody war against the Sandinistas in the 1980s.

"It is a political striptease," said Sergio Ramirez, the novelist who was the Sandinista Government's Vice-President in the 1980s but left the party in disgust two years ago. "If you take off all your clothes, you end up naked."

Last month Señor Ortega staged a public meeting with Contra fighters and signed a pact offering them three Cabinet positions. The Sandinistas say that more than 4,000 former Contras attended, but witnesses say only a handful of commanders were present. Critics accused Señor Ortega of making a pact with the devil in an attempt to win votes. "It is immoral," said Dora María Téllez, a much-respected Health Minister in Señor Ortega's Government.



An artist's impression of a stegosaurus, with a double row of spikes along its spine

Rare dinosaur fossils stolen from sacred Australian site

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THIEVES who stole dinosaur fossils from a sacred site near Broome, in Western Australia, got away with what are believed to be the world's only known set of stegosaurus footprints, palaeontologists said yesterday.

The prehistoric remains came from a track made by the 30ft tall herbivore, distinguished by a double row of spikes along its spine, which roamed the planet during the Jurassic period. The prints date from more than 130 million years ago and were an important link in the chain of evidence suggesting the existence of the prehistoric southern land of Gondwana, over what is now Australia, South America, Africa, India and Antarctica.

Ken McNamara, senior curator of fossils at the University of Western Australia, said the footprints were of incalculable significance. "It is a great loss because they are unique fossil trackways and worldwide they are incredibly rare," he said. "I don't know what the footprints would be worth on the open market, but



One of the fossil footprints

as far as the work that is going on to support the existence of a super-continent is concerned, they were unique."

Local Aborigines, who believe the four footprints belong to a mythical creature from their "Dream Time", are upset by the theft. Aboriginal custodian Joseph Roe claimed the theft could bring bad luck.

"Whoever's responsible for stealing the rock could fall ill and as custodian I'm at risk myself," he said. "It's a real worry."

Mr Roe said the local spirits would look for revenge. "The quicker I get my hands on these things and put them back, the safer it'll be for me and whoever took them."

Police believe the footprints were removed from rock with the aid of power tools. The theft of the dinosaur fossils comes only weeks after the world's oldest rock carvings were found in Australia's Northern Territory.

'Worthless' footprints may go to private collector

BY ROGER MAYNARD AND QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

WHILE there is a thriving world trade in fossils, most palaeontologists believe that the stolen footprints of the stegosaurus are so rare as to make them worthless on the open market.

Dr Robert Bakker, dinosaur curator

at the Tate Museum in Wyoming, said on Australian radio yesterday that the fossilised footprints would be easily recognisable.

"Someone wanted a souvenir, they went out and stole antiquities and since they would be easily identified at a gem and mineral show in a catalogue, their retail value is virtually zip," he said. Police believe the footprints may have

been stolen by or for a private collector.

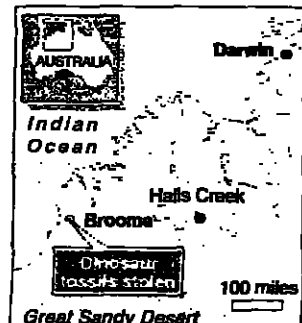
North America has a flourishing market in dinosaur remains and artefacts, and prices can run to several thousands, some say millions, of dollars. Trading is mostly legal and is done through various media, from the Internet to big city auction houses, such as Sotheby's. The going rate for a

Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton is said to be around \$1 million (£640,000).

The New York-based US Dinosaur Society, a blameless organisation of dinosaur enthusiasts, yesterday lamented the lack of export restriction laws on dinosaur remains from America and predicted that the dinosaur collecting world would soon also have to come to terms with counterfeiting.



Scientists measure the stegosaurus footprints near Broome, Western Australia



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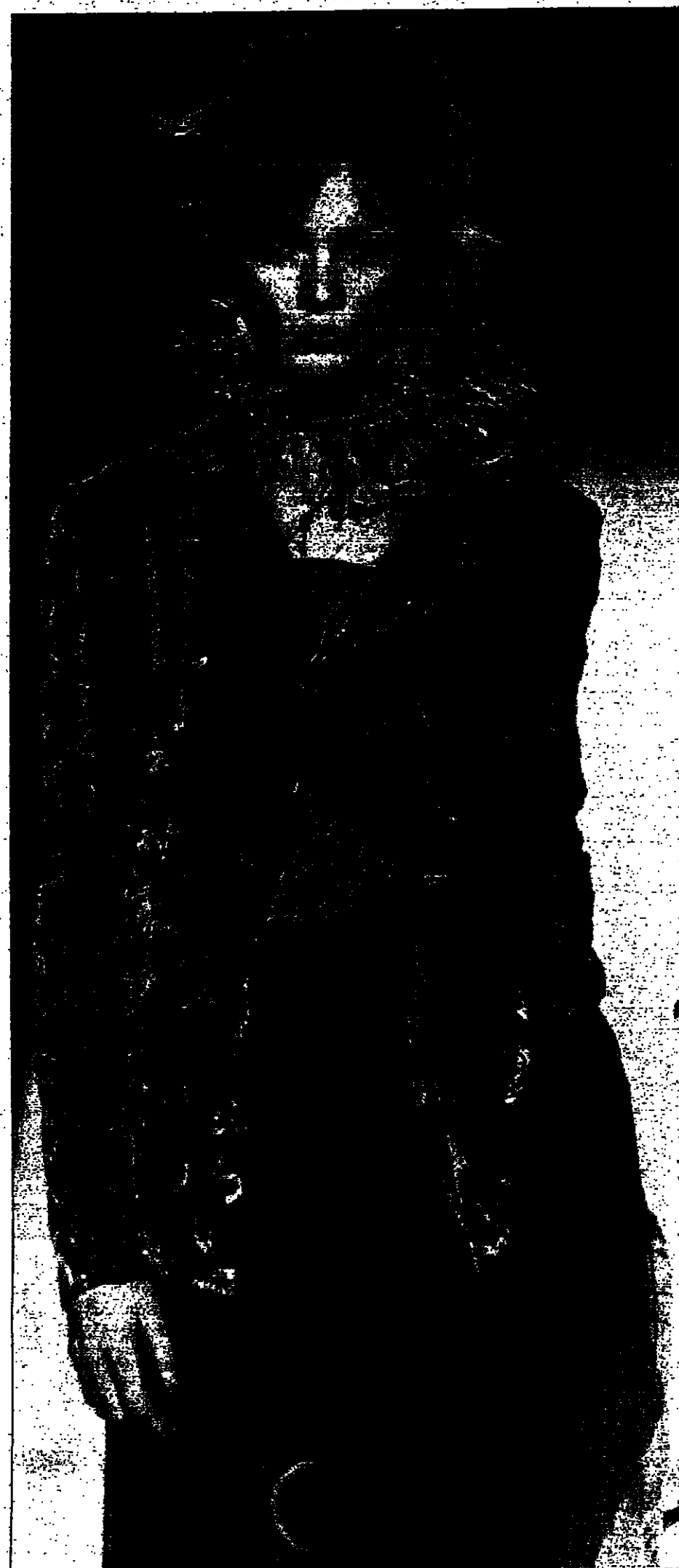
WESTWOOD: simple



VALENTINO: lingerie looks offer a neat line in subdued sexiness

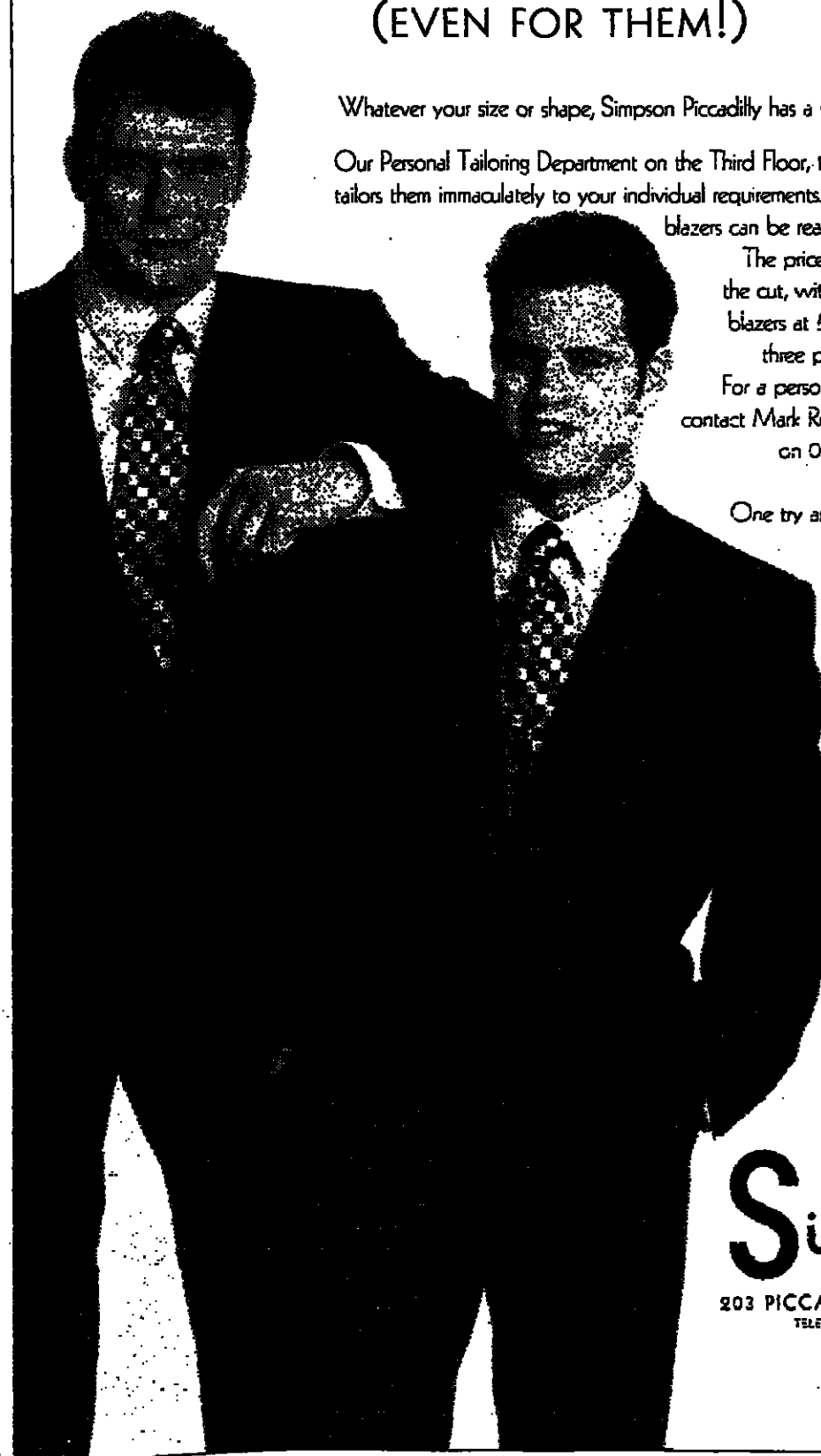


CERRUTI: tailoring teamed with barely-there tops



YAMAMOTO: best of the bunch with an artfully modern look which embraced colour and pattern

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Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

Those who scoff when fashion is likened to art should have attended the Comme des Garçons spring/summer 1997 presentation during Paris Fashion Week. There was no music to accompany the models, who wore the prettiest of summer dresses (wrapped and twisted about their bodies) in pink and blue gingham and pastel patterned chiffon. Nothing remarkable about that, you might say, but then there were the humps. Yes, humps, lumps and bumps. Rei Kawakubo, who designs the line, had inserted feather stuffed pillows between flesh and fabric, distorting the perfectly formed models into bizarre Breughel-like silhouettes. "The body and dress become one," she explains. Hmmm.

Paris Fashion Week is a paradox. With nearly 100 fashion shows it is possible to experience the wearable, the wacky and the downright weird. There are the immediately accessible clothes of designers such as Valentino and Sonia Rykiel alongside intellectual exercises by the likes of Comme des Garçons.

Helmut Lang and Ann Demeulemeester. However, beyond the arty styling and oh-so-serious viewpoint, most collections featured really good things to wear. This was a great season for women who love clothes.

Both Lang and Demeulemeester do excellent trouser suits — Lang's are stricter, with jackets featuring an inset stripe while Demeulemeester cuts a low-slung, wide trouser worn with an unstructured double-breasted jacket. Lang also featured shift dresses with wavy hems and fluttering sashes.

Vivienne Westwood created some of the most elegant silhouettes in Paris — sinuous draped crepe cocktail dresses, knitted suits and sleek tailoring. She also showed a long black evening dress which was pure drop-dead chic alongside sun-dresses printed with flowers and fruit. A peach of a collection.

Over at Givenchy, everything was smelling of roses. John Galiano, who designed the line, used spriggy Regency prints on flamboyant ruffled matinee jackets and high-waisted, Jane Austen dresses. Leopard-spot chiffon was mixed with candy coloured brocade, while ultra-simple streamlined blazers in black or white, were matched with understated contrast skirts, with hemlines which skimmed the floor. For his own collection, Galiano mixed leather motorbiker suits with gypsy frills.

Martine Sitbon used pin-stripe tailoring, golden knits and handkerchief hem devore velvet dresses in a sexy show, while for his eponymous collection Karl Lagerfeld offered jersey stink suits and dresses which slid over the body. For Chanel he made candy-box clothes for his disco dolly models who glided past on a conveyor belt. The outfits were as slick as the presentation.

Rykiel's show featured more than 60 models; Yves Saint

Laurent used only half a dozen for his intimate studio presentation. Both created utterly Parisian chic. YSL's tuxedo was teamed with a long black skirt and Rykiel favoured blue jeans.

A truly great designer can capture the moment with colour, fabric, shape and, most of all, imagination. He or she also instinctively recognises their own particular moment has come. This season Valentino met fashion head-on with a collection which showcased his greatest hits — lightweight frills, asymmetric cutting, jackets that were little more than lace shirts, beadwork and tailoring, softened with lingerie looks.

Narciso Rodriguez has made the Cerruti-label cool with his red hot designs. This collection embodied fashion's spirit — sophisticated yet care-

free. Jersey dresses flowed down the runway next to barely-there corsets worn with softly tailored suits.

At the other end of fashion is Yohji Yamamoto whose latest show was an exhibition of pure artistry. The Japanese designer embraced colour and decoration alongside the monochromatic. He even added humour with spoof Chanel-type suits and a touch of romance with layers of white lace frills. The simplest of tops and trousers looked covetable. Yamamoto is one of the great masters of the craft.

I guess, after all, fashion is a bit like art. Sometimes you welcome the thought-provoking and other times you just want something you feel comfortable with, something nice to hang on your wall. In what turned out to be a sensational season, Paris offered both.

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The deadly result of ignorance

The discoveries of science may be unpalatable — but we should still be told

A few years back, I came across some American research — emanating from an academic medical centre in Illinois, I believe — which found that women who had abortions while in their late teens and early twenties seemed to be at an increased risk of breast cancer later on.

When I raised this once publicly, I was shouted down, reprimanded for posing too much trust in a report which was based on a lamentably small sample. This report itself never received much currency over here and I assumed my critics were correct. Even the medical establishment didn't appear to set much store by it or its findings.

I had thought, then, that the findings were at best inconclusive, at worst had been irresponsibly interpreted and that was why they were ignored: now I wonder whether they had simply been quashed.

For newer studies confirm those earlier findings: American scientists are once again proposing that abortion does have an effect on the likelihood of a woman's developing breast cancer: but now they go further, suggesting that having an abortion increases one's chances of breast cancer by a third. What's more, they suggest that this has long since been suspected.

Even if inconclusive — and all research is by its nature inconclusive — this is extremely big news, big enough to be analysed seriously. Instead, the scientists are badmouthed for even having the temerity to publish the results.

Ann Furedi, of the Birth Control Trust, does not say that, I admit, but she does say, by way of rebuke, that "the risks to a woman's health from continuing an unwanted pregnancy are significantly greater than from abortion".

How can she be so sure? If she won't even consider these latest findings, how can she satisfy herself that there really is nothing in them? Evidently she doesn't like the aspersions the research casts on the healthiness of legalised abortion. But how can she assume that not having an abortion may be more detrimental to women's health? If it is the case that the rise in abortions, since legalisation has been what has led to the increase in breast cancer, then we must face it.

Access to abortion has always been granted, legally, through the argument that continuing with a pregnancy may be bad for the health of the woman in question, so that is the reason cited in its defence. But we all know that is not the reason most women, certainly in the developed world, have abortions. I am not anti-abortion, but neither am I pro-hyperactivity.

It is not enough to say that because this latest study supports the views of the anti-abortionists, it must be ideologically motivated. Science is amoral: it has no scientific value, indeed, unless it is objective. How it is interpreted may support or denigrate any particular moral outlook, but that is a different matter.

Of course, we must not be naive: the anti-abortion movement is a huge propagandist force in America and we should scrutinise very carefully every utterance and be alert to the potential for abuse. This

does not mean we must make up our minds in advance that anything which might give ammunition to the ideological enemy has to be wrong.

Publishing these findings may give concern, but is that reason to withhold information? Just because abortion is legal does not mean that it is agreeable, even without the cancer scare. Why should anyone hold that the guilt-free, misery-free abortion should be desirable, when it cannot, surely, be appropriate, or frankly even possible?

I have written before (when exclaiming at the impertinence of the Government's refusal to inform the public about the possible dangers of certain chemicals in infant formula) that after the birth of my first child I was told by someone who had done research into cot death that bottle-fed babies were significantly more vulnerable to cot death than breast-fed babies. But, she told me, no one wanted to release this information officially because of the consternation it would cause.

It should be stressed that no one knows what causes cot death, but these findings must still be considered. I can see the argument for caution — we must be measured, we must resist alarmism — but we mustn't ignore or, even worse, take it upon ourselves to hide from others that which is unpleasant to consider.

And it can get a little more



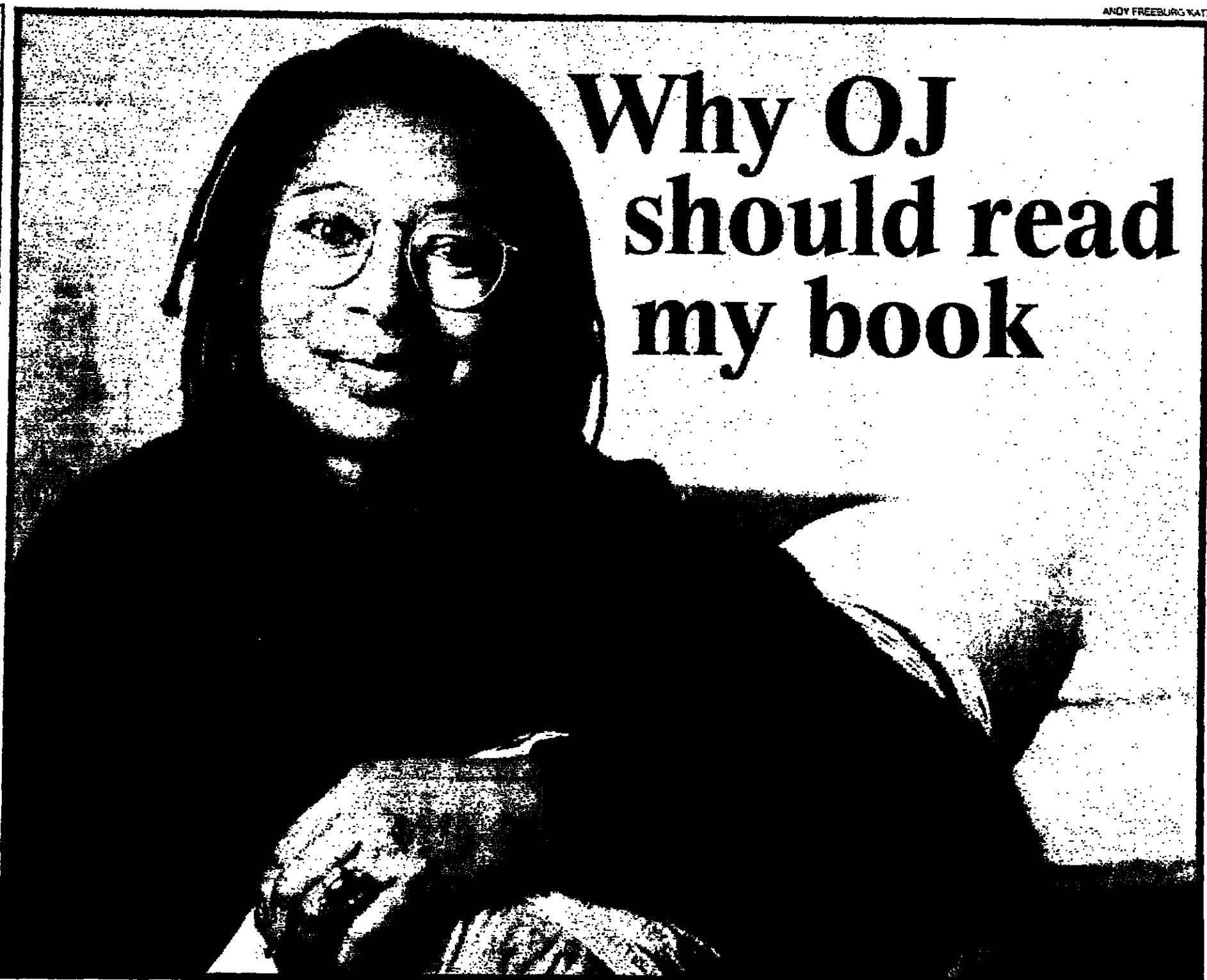
Nigella Lawson

complicated. Scientists have found themselves vilified for publishing views not because their critics disagree with them per se, but because they are afraid of what will be done with them. When, recently, at a conference of geneticists, the idea of a gay gene was mooted, it caused an uproar.

The area of difficulty was not so much that a gay gene might exist, since after all, many gay men felt they benefited from a depiction of gayness that did not see it as a psychosocial aberration but as an essential part of themselves, but that in future a homophobic element could locate and exterminate fetuses with just such a genetic make-up.

The fear is not a foolish one: science may be without moral implication but the same patently doesn't hold for its application and interpretation.

Henry James noted that (along with "the presence of money") the prerequisite for scientific inquiry was "the absence of prejudice". But unless we non-scientists want to show ourselves up as coarse-witted we have to master some absence of prejudice of our own.



Alice Walker says that O.J. Simpson might not have become a wife-beater if he had read *The Color Purple* and understood the pain and humiliation from a woman's viewpoint

The filming of *The Color Purple* was a saga almost as painful as the book itself. Interview with Alice Walker by Giles Whittell

Alice Walker lives in a spectacular isolation on top of a golden hill in northern California for much of the year. The nearest town is a place of one street, three cafes and an antique petrol pump that might have been painted by Norman Rockwell. It is a world away from the violence of Los Angeles, where the notorious murder of a white couple two years ago triggered a furor that has scarcely abated since. Ms Walker did not know the victims, but she takes their deaths as a personal affront.

Her best-known book, *The Color Purple*, was a story of incest, misogyny and women's courage in the black American South. Since its publication 14 years ago millions have read it and millions more have seen Steven Spielberg's film adaptation. O.J. Simpson, apparently, was not among them.

"If O.J. had read it and felt the pain and humiliation of violence from a woman's point of view; if he had had art to help him feel the woman's suffering, it would have been much harder for him to be a batterer," she says. "Art absolutely works. That's one of the reasons people often hate it." Ms Walker is famous not only as a writer but also as a hugger, laughter, bisexual, (im)promptu dancer and avid communicator with the spirits.

But it would be a mistake to underestimate her seriousness. I had half expected to be swept up in some wild pagan embrace by way of a greeting. Instead she did what, on reflection, you might expect a Pulitzer Prize-winning icon of feminism to do with yet another interviewer. She shook hands gravely.

Dressed in comfortable writing clothes and thick socks forced into flip-flops, she led the way through a low-rise wooden house to a broad balcony overlooking the vineyards of Anderson Valley. *The Color Purple*, she says, became "a thing around which people could organise against wife-beating, incest, sexism, a whole range of things." The trouble was that not everyone

responded constructively. Thousands of black men, unlike O.J. Simpson, read the book, saw the film and condemned them as degrading of their race and gender. It did not help that the film's director was Jewish and — in the pre-Schindler's List era — synonymous with film-making at its frothiest.

Meanwhile, she was coping simultaneously with her mother's death, being betrayed by her lover, and a debilitating three-year illness. What should have been a triumphant time in her career turned into an ordeal that drained her of the energy to answer her critics.

Ten years on she has recovered enough to bare her soul in a new book, *The Same River Twice: Honoring The Difficult*. It is a sketchy account of the classic novelist's trauma of surrendering to Hollywood, a risk she took mainly to bring her book to blacks who had not or could not read it.

As a creative endeavour it is thin. It consists of her (unused) screenplay for *The Color Purple* and a collection of diary entries from her time on the set, followed by articles written by others about the film, and letters written to her in the tumult after its release.

But creativity was not the point. "Before anything else it's a record," she says. "And people of colour in this culture have to keep their own records, because there is a history of distortion of how it really was."

She insists she has nothing against black men even though one of them, her ex-lover Robert Allen, admitted having an affair just when her need for emotional support was at a peak. She also points out that she agreed to work with a Jewish, male, director mainly because he was the only one who wanted to film her book.

Spielberg was "green and supple", she says. Meaning naïve? She denies it, but reveals him more than once as unaware of the insults American culture doles out unconsciously to blacks.

For example, he was looking for ways to include her in the film and suggested she appear holding his newborn son, Max. She declined without saying why. But three years later she wrote Spielberg a letter, that appears in the book, explaining that his suggestion had smacked of racial stereotyping and upset her deeply.

Neither does she shrink from more prickly kinds of record-keeping. She regrets not having made as much money from the film as she expected and criticises the studio's accounting methods.

Why OJ should read my book

"I have money," she says. "I don't grieve over what they didn't give me, because I'm happy. I just wonder if they are."

There is something of the fortress about this hilltop retreat. Behind a hefty wooden gate it provides a redoubt in the battles for her many causes. She has planted her 40 acres with saplings to begin reversing rampant logging. In her view of the world the evil that white men do has got the better of them, and of most of the planet. But then she offers a startlingly optimistic view: black and white people are irresistibly attracted to each other.

Before it turned nasty, the kind of relationship O.J. Simpson had with his murdered ex-

lawyer and moved with him to Mississippi. Inter-racial marriage was still illegal there, and they were the state's only inter-racial couple. They suffered taunts, stares and unendurable stress. Asked why they divorced seven years later, she replies with one word: "Exhaustion."

● *The Same River Twice* is published by The Women's Press tomorrow at £15.99. It can be ordered through The Times Bookshop, tel: 0345-660916

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■ 2,000,000,001: a space odyssey — or is it just another tall story?

How time, if Einstein's shade will forgive me, flies! It seems like only yesterday that you and I were waving goodbye to that nice young couple as they set off for the stars on Pioneer 10, yet here we are, about to celebrate the silver jubilee of that fond farewell. Yes, they have been out there, going like the clappers, for a quarter of a century, and should now, on NASA's best estimate, be around one billion miles from home.

And, in that same time, how much further have those they left behind got? Just one inch: for that, we learnt this week, was the increase in height achieved by the average man since 1971. Paltry? Of itself, perhaps, but set beside those billion miles, incalculably significant.

For the couple on Pioneer 10 were precisely that. They were not in Pioneer 10, as a real live couple might have been. They were engraved, as you may now recall, on the flank of it. A young, white, naked couple, of average height and build, waving and smiling to show they came in friendliness and peace, etched by NASA so that the putative inhabitants of wherever Mr and Mrs Man finally fetched up would know just what Earthlings looked like. When that might be was, of course, anybody's guess, and here let me quote from the contemporary report in *The Times*: "Scientists estimate Pioneer's shortest possible lifetime at two billion years, though moving through frictionless space, where the chance of collision with another body is so remote as to be beyond imagination, Pioneer 10 could continue its journey to infinity." Well, *The Times* itself has come on a bit since 1971, and I am here to tell you that that collision is not beyond imagination at all, which is why I am prepared to conjoin this week's two coincidental statistics, the billion miles and the inch, throw infinity into the mix, and have a bit of a think about it.

Look at the snapshot atop this column. Does it depict an amoeba? A mollusc, even? No, it does not; but it would have done, once. And not so long ago, either: hardly more than a few million years back. I should have been a pair of ragged claws, scuttling across the floors of silent seas. The snapshot shows only that I have evolved a bit; and now that you have been reminded where I came from, you will twig where my argument is going.

Forget infinity: let us hop forward a mere million years, to the point where Pioneer 10 has at last collided with alien clever clods on the far side of whatever the near side might be. They are gazing at the 1971 picture of Mr and Mrs Man. But, given what Earthlings would have looked like a million years ago, do you have any notion of what we might look like a million years hence? You do if you have a pocket calculator able to work in terms of 25 years to the inch. Oh, I can't of course swear that in AD 1,001,996 we shall all be 2,500ft tall, some of us might be no bigger than the Eiffel Tower, but the image of Mr and Mrs Man is still going to be extremely misleading to the gawping things gathered around the wreck of Pioneer 10 — even if matters haven't been further complicated by such military contortments as might take place over the next millennium, leaving the handful of enucleated survivors to mutate into polka-dotted gastropods with 17 heads and a talking navel.

Though I shall not, thank God, be there to see it, I fear for the possible outcome of all this. Suppose the things from Planet X not only so like what they see on the side of Pioneer 10 but are also so technologically advanced as to be able to do something about it, and decide therefore to hop/crawl/bounce/drip or whatever they do into their own spacecraft and embark on the long trip Earthwards. An aeron or so later, they will frenziedly chuck open the hatch and hurl themselves onto the surface of this planet, shouting: "Never mind taking us to your leader, we have been crossing infinity for what seems like infinity, we are only flesh and blood, where is that woman with the big jugs and the terrific hips, where is that bloke with the rippling pecs and the perfect teeth?"

What, when the visitors discover the truth, will then happen to the luckless skyscraping grotesques who will by then have inherited the Earth. I dare not even begin to imagine.



A better class of waffle

Politicians such as Tony Blair are always saving the family — but we will survive without being baked into a moral rabbit pie

A publicist advises a politician in trouble always to be photographed embracing his wife. If in deep trouble he should include his children. But however deep his trouble, he should never risk a speech on the sanctity of the family. You never know what skeleton may leap from the cupboard and dance down Fleet Street. The wise statesman renders unto Government the things that are Government's, and leave to Home the things that are Home's.

Tony Blair may be in no trouble at all. His wife and children may be safely under lock and key. The Shadow Cabinet may have been vetted by Mandelson's Taleban, and declared white as driven snow. But what is this speech in South Africa on Monday about morality, the family and the Decent Society? A plump hostage has surely been dropped in Mother Fortune's lap.

Despite being invited to speak on foreign policy, Mr Blair oddly chose Cape Town to launch the family as a British election issue. According to the spin, he was responding to John Major's attack on his upbringing at the Tory conference last week. Mr Blair wants to portray the Tories as the immoral party and the Eighties as the guilty decade, an era of greed, selfishness, badly behaved children and Thatcherism.

Labour wishes to revive a decent working-class society in which "parents did their duty". A new sense of parental responsibility would ease the burden of the welfare state. Mr Blair plans home-school contracts in which parents "are told what is expected of them": reading to their children, helping them to perform better, getting them to school on time. Under Labour, parents must know where their children are and what they are doing. There will be a curfew. This is part of what Mr Blair called a new social and moral code, "not of prejudice but of rules, of order, of stability".

Mr Blair is nothing if not cunning. He wants to pin blame for society's ills on the Tories. He implies that politics over the past decade has contributed to its perceived moral decline, and that politics in the shape of new Labour can put it right. Yet he also had to cover his libertarian flank. He was not being "hypocritical about sex, or about a woman's place being in the kitchen, or homophobic or preaching to people about their private lives". His office later acknowledged that his much-lauded

"family unit" includes single parents and homosexual couples. Thus the Tories are to blame for moral decay, but rectifying it will lie as much with "the family unit" as with new Labour.

Politicians parroted bromides about the moral decline of society do so at some peril. There was no Golden Age of the family. Mr Blair should read the usual texts: Laslett, Levi-Strauss, Mount. Longer life, declining family size, more women working, more job mobility cannot simply be disregarded — unless politics wants to be dismissed as dumb. Mr Blair promises to make the strengthening of family and community life a "central objective of a Labour government".

Every Whitehall department will be required to "ensure that its policies nurture these values". But how? To pretend that the present Cabinet has been neglectful of family policy is absurd. Nowhere does Mr Blair show his inexperience so much as in vague assertions about administrators "nurturing values".

There are only two options to draw from this bizarre turn of events. Either Mr Blair's speech was mere electoral Muzak, "feel-good" phraseology devoid of content. In that case we can only regret that the citizens of Cape Town were deprived of Mr Blair's more detailed thoughts on world affairs. Alternatively, Mr Blair somehow means what he says. He really does have a political programme, as yet undivulged, for the "traditional family unit".

Labour has just spent a painful decade disentangling itself from its historic commitment to "public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange". It has accepted the liberalism of the market economy and government deregulation. Government cannot take decisions for private business. Ministers should not second-guess the market. Whatever socialism is about, it is no longer about a distinctive approach to

the planning of a capitalist economy. Thus bereft, Mr Blair's lurch into family values seems like ideology on the rebound. Nor is this the first rebound. Two years ago, he redefined "socialism" as a version of the popular American concept, communitarianism. This involved granting local communities and their institutions more power at the expense of business and central government. I thought this a genuinely creative line for new Labour to pursue. It built on the party's traditional concern for poor neighbourhoods, and offered a local basis for equity in combating need.

New Labour is stalling on communitarianism. I still have no idea how the Shadow Cabinet proposes to "empower" communities, politically, legally or fiscally. Nervous of its record in local government, Labour is hesitant of such empowerment. Nervous of the Treasury, it is hesitant of any move

towards redistributive community taxation. Instead, Mr Blair has plumped for "family policy" to guide Britain into the new millennium. Economic nationalisation did not work. Mr Blair turns his gaze on the nation's domestic life and finds it awash in moral turpitude. He will "nationalise" that instead. Such nationalisation should not place undue strain on the Exchequer.

Mr Blair is always refreshing in debate, so let us press him further. He equates family and community. Philosophers normally link family with the individual. The family as an institution sits over against the "community". Families are by their nature Darwinian units striving for survival in competition with others. Their nature is to resist collective egalitarian pressure. If Labour wants to place the family on an ideological pedestal, Mr Blair must resolve this paradox, and do so other than by merely pleading in aid of Halsey's meaningless epigram, "Socialism is the collective individualism". The Tories are

having enough trouble equating parental choice with selective entry to grammar schools. If Mr Blair wants to give "the family" primacy in access to schools, hospitals and public housing, he has a tough job on his hands. South African speeches are easy. Queen's Speeches are hard.

I assume what he means in practice is more laws, more intervention and less individual liberty. Mr Blair says he has no desire to interfere in people's personal lives. In that case, what is this new "moral and social code" that he believes should be shaping our society, as against the one in operation now? I am told the present Government is creating a new offence, every week. Labour's proposed interventions — against school truants, late children's parties, parents who fail their prep, noisy neighbours — will make the present regime seem like Liberty Hall. Mr Blair will say that he is just "suggesting". An army of inspectors are now imposing similar suggestions from successive Tory education, health and social security ministers.

I wish for advice on how to conduct my marriage or bring up my child. I will not ask a politician. If Mr Blair thinks Britain is sunk into social and moral decline (and feels the need to warn South Africans rather than Britons about it) he should be more specific. He should be more specific both about the decline and about his cure.

Peter Rabbit and his mother survived Mr MacGregor's vegetable garden without a lecture from new Labour on the need for a curfew and parental control. Somehow the Blair family survived the Eighties without being baked into a moral rabbit pie.

Mr Blair used to be an eminently practical speaker. His party conference, hinted at a new and alarming millenarianism. A magnetic force appears to be drawing him away from the dispatch box and towards the Mount of Olives. "Let us not delude ourselves," he suddenly cries, "that we can build a society fit for our children to grow up in, without making a moral judgment about the nature of that society." Really? Who is We? What does he mean by Fit for our children? And what, to a politician, is a Moral Judgment about the nature of society? This may be a better class of waffle than Neil Kinnock's. But it is still waffle. Leave Home alone, Mr Blair. Just cut the public sector borrowing requirement.

Simon Jenkins

Brushed off

TWO LEADING art historians are headed for the libel court after one of them, a catalogue of the Queen's art collection, described the other as "an ignorant" and "rather presumptuous".

Professor James Beck, a veteran of the art history department at New York's Columbia University, has issued a writ against his opposite number at Harvard, Professor John Shearman, a Brit former at the Courtauld Institute, wants the work to proceed. And he sought to warn Paduans against Beck in a leaked letter to the local council.

"I hope that you will understand that James Beck is a rather presumptuous person and, as an ignorant... he has little authority," wrote Shearman. Sir Ernest Gombrich, the art critic, has

signed a petition supporting Beck's stance on the frescoes. But Shearman, for whom the term "dry as an unbuttered biscuit" might have been invented, groans at the mention of his adversary: "I never wanted to stir up controversy."

Over at the glossy magazine emporium Conde Nast, there is chaos in the offices of its latest



"It could be your maternity bra..."

magazine GQ Active. The editor, Francis Cotton, has resigned just days after getting his feet under the desk. "We find it rather strange," admits a spokeswoman through gritted, but perfect, teeth.

Squeaking

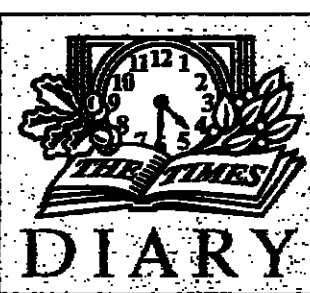
AMONG THE sleek and pampered guests at the Savoy Hotel in London is one who does not pay any bills. A fearless mouse has been spotted in the Thomas Foyer, scampering around the gazebo. The hotel has just undergone extensive refurbishment and redecoration but the mouse survived the upheaval.

"This is a brave mouse," says the unflappable lady who spotted it recently. "It sauntered about in the middle of the room, enjoying the attention." The hotel is investigating.

The Pango

THEY TALK only of ballroom dancing at the Governor's residence in Hong Kong. Chris Patten is being encouraged to take up the sport in order to woo Chinese support before the handover in 1997. Dancing is the colony's latest craze.

Society functions are no longer complete without a frenzied dis-



play and contenders for the post of Chief Executive after the English leave have been practising their steps. One candidate, Peter Woo, a frightfully rich businessman, so dazzled diners at a recent function that he received a standing ovation. "Chris Patten has been forced into taking a few turns after dinner," one social observer says. "He needs lessons — Angela Rippon should steady herself for a call."

Doggerel

LATEST to face the teeth of the quarantine laws is Lady Broomfield, wife of Sir Nigel Broomfield, British Ambassador in Bonn. She says she would rather put down Katie, her 13½-year-old English springer spaniel, than see her endure kennels for six months when the family returns to Britain in March.

So strong are her feelings that William Waldegrave has been talking of the verbal lashing he received when he once stayed with the Broomfields in Bonn. He subsequently advised those planning to visit the Ambassador's residence to stay in a hotel — unless, of course they were fond of dogs.

Bottoms up

STANDING aloof from the celebrations for Alexander McQueen's elevation to chief designer at Givenchy are his former employers, the Savile Row tailors Anderson & Sheppard. "He was only here for a couple of months," said a manager at the shop. "No one remembers him."

Gieves & Hawkes, McQueen's next employers, were more generous. "He is remembered for being extremely enthusiastic and conscientious," Robert Gieves says. The nation's plumbers and builders, whose trademark is the "cleavage" trouser line known as builders bottom, side with Gieves & Hawkes rather than with the sour faces at Anderson & Sheppard. It was McQueen who took them into the realm of haute couture with his brow-moppingly chic "bumster" trousering.

P.H.S



"Bumster" trousers, taking the plumber onto the catwalk

Nothing to lose but new chains

Jonathan Mirsky remembers Peking's political prisoners

THIS has been a busy week for Peking's jailers. Cell doors are swinging open and banging shut. Out this week came Yao Wenyan, one of the two surviving members of the Gang of Four. In went Liu Xiaobo, who has been there before for saying and writing too much. In jail already, and likely to stay in much longer, is Wang Dan, once China's most wanted criminal, who suffers from Liu's disability, but in a more severe form. But Wang Xizhe, a fellow talker and writer of Liu Xiaobo's, who has been in, and out of prison since 1974, slipped out of the net over the weekend and is now in Hong Kong. I once spent an evening each with Mr Yao and Mr Liu, but have only admired Wang Dan from afar.

Before he suddenly became one of Mao's favourite authors, for one work only, Mr Yao, now 64, was a party writer in Shanghai churning out hortatory essays. But in 1965 he wrote a newspaper feature criticising a play by Wu Han, the deputy mayor of Peking. That article was the opening shot in the Cultural Revolution, which was to last until 1976. Wu Han's play was an allegory about a 17th-century mandarin who dared to chide the Emperor; it was really about Marshal Peng Dehuai, who in 1959 had told Mao that his economic policies were causing millions to starve, and was purged. Yao's essay, which Mao subsidised three times, led to the death of Wu and his immediate family and the jailing, torture and killing of many other high-ranking party members whom Mao deemed to be Wu's co-conspirators and therefore traitors.

Yao had been brought to Mao's attention by Jiang Qing, his wife. Together with two other scyophants, Zhang Chunqiao and Wang Hongwen, they formed what immediately after Mao's death in 1976 was called the Gang of Four. At their trial they were accused of almost single-handedly causing millions to suffer; this made it unnecessary to inquire why millions more enthusiastically collaborated. Yao received the lightest sentence, 20 years, which expired this week. Madame Mao banged herself in her cell in 1991. Wang died of cancer, and Zhang Chunqiao remains behind bars. I sat next to Mr Yao late one night in 1972 while interviewing Chou Enlai. He never took off his blue cap, squirted whipped cream from an airtainer all over himself, and continually interrupted and joked with the Premier.

Seventeen years later, in the spring of 1989, two nights before the Tiananmen killings, I sat in a small Peking flat, thick with tobacco smoke, and helped Liu Xiaobo, now 37, a university lecturer and three of his friends, including Hou Dejian, China's most popular singer, to translate into English an explanation of why they were on hunger strike to support the demonstrations. Mr Liu subsequently spent 19 months in Peking's notorious Qincheng prison. In 1995 he was readmitted without charge for seven months after signing human rights petitions with other intellectuals.

Last week Mr Liu and Wang Xizhe, another implacable dissident, published a petition calling for press freedom, government action against Japan which occupies disputed islands in the East China Sea, and talks with the Dalai Lama. They also suggested the impeachment of President Jiang Zemin. On Tuesday Mr Liu was taken from his home by security men and within 24 hours his wife learnt he had been sentenced to three years' "education through labour", a penalty the police can impose without trial.

I doubt whether this will crush Mr Liu. I can still see him, the young university lecturer, racing from group to group in late April 1989 during the early days in Tiananmen Square, scolding the students for not standing up for their political rights. And I recall his words in the speech he was composing in that smoke-filled room on the night of June 1: "We want to tell the people that what the Government calls a small group of troublemakers is actually the entire Chinese nation."

Wang Dan may be only 27, but in the Chinese State's eyes he is a deep-dyed counter-revolutionary. He disappeared in Peking 18 months ago, not long before the anniversary of Tiananmen, where he had been easily the most impressive figure. When he went on the run after the killings, he was number one on China's list of 20 most wanted fugitives. He served almost four years in Qincheng, and after his release was endlessly harried and detained. In December 1994 Wang Dan did the unheard of: he brought a suit against the police for violating his human rights and appealed to the UN.

Mr Wang came to public attention in 1989 when he was a freshman at the elite Peking University where his father taught. That spring he organized 17 "salons", where liberal intellectuals spoke informally to students. In early April, just before the demonstrations began, he posted on the university's central bulletin board a 50-signature poster which noted that 200 years after the French Revolution, China was still not free. He edited a magazine which was closed after exactly one edition: it had criticised Deng Xiaoping.

A very cool slender youth in a zipped-up jacket, Mr Wang spoke quietly in Tiananmen Square to hushed crowds, and in a late-night meeting on May 19 with the Prime Minister, Li Peng, in the Great Hall of the People, seen live on television all over China, he said little except to tell Mr Li, who would soon order in the tanks, that "99.9 per cent" of the students refused to leave Tiananmen. I imagine that in his mind he remains in that square.



CAN'T JOIN, WON'T JOIN

Politicians should accept that Britain is ineligible for EMU

The moment of truth on Britain's membership of the European monetary union is approaching and the real decision may be made sooner than either John Major or Tony Blair expects. Regardless of the many arguments that can be made for and against the single currency, there are two practical reasons why Britain will soon have to rule itself out as a founder-member of EMU.

The first reason was given over the weekend by Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister. Membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism for two years is "an absolute precondition" for any country that wants to join the single currency, he said. Since there is not the slightest chance of sterling re-entering the ERM before the general election, Britain will be disqualified from EMU membership in January 1999. Kenneth Clarke has loudly rejected this interpretation of the Maastricht treaty, but his protests have fallen on deaf ears in Europe, and rightly so.

Mr Clarke's interpretation is completely inconsistent with the language of the treaty. This is the treaty which the Chancellor once famously boasted about never having bothered to read. For Mr Clarke's benefit, the relevant passage states: "The criterion on participation in the exchange-rate mechanism shall mean that a Member State has respected the normal fluctuation margins provided for by the exchange-rate mechanism for at least two years before the examination (on which countries are eligible for the single currency). In particular, the Member State shall not have devalued its currency's bilateral central rate against any other Member State's currency on its own initiative for the same period." Since a country like Britain that is outside the ERM does not have a "bilateral central rate", such a country cannot fulfil this criterion.

The European Council could, of course, simply ignore this provision of the treaty and let Britain in. But such blatant contempt

for the treaty would virtually guarantee an appeal by opponents of EMU to Germany's Constitutional Court. It is hard to see why European leaders would want to jeopardise the entire EMU project in this way.

But even if Germany and the others were unexpectedly to give way on the question of ERM membership, another even more daunting practical obstacle to British membership of EMU has now arisen. This is revealed by the story on our front page today from Charles Bremner, our Brussels correspondent. The European Commission, under strong German pressure, has put forward a "stability pact" which would have to be accepted by all members of EMU. This pact would allow the European Council, by majority vote, to levy enormous fines on the taxpayers of any country whose policies it deemed to be unsound. These fines would, in Britain's case, be equivalent to an additional three pence on the standard rate of tax. That such an infringement on Britain's fiscal sovereignty could be whipped through any British Parliament likely to be formed after the next general election beggars belief.

As the practical details of the single currency become clearer, the entire project is moving further from the realm of practical politics, at least in Britain. Diplomatic reasons for maintaining ambiguity may remain; any chance of helping to prevent EMU happening at all needs to be considered. But, in domestic British terms, the increasingly obvious impracticality of putting Britain into EMU presents politicians with an opportunity. Without splitting their parties or pandering to anti-European sentiment, it is now possible for both Mr Major and Mr Blair quite simply to rule out EMU membership in 1999 as a practical option, as Denmark has done already and Sweden may do soon. Which ever party first decides to do this will deserve plaudits for common sense and honesty with the voters, as well as for its political skills.

UNDER THE LASH

The Commons must rethink its practices

There could be no surer sign of how blurred the principles of Parliament have become than that David Willetts is blamed by his colleagues more for having written down a conversation with a committee chairman than for having overstepped the mark in the first place. Yesterday the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, paved the way for the matter to be referred to the Standards and Privileges Committee. When MPs debate the motion today, they should try to shake off their cynical cast of mind and see themselves through the eyes of the outside world.

The charge against Mr Willetts is that, as a government whip in 1994, he tried to exert undue pressure upon the chairman of the Members' Interests Committee to minimise criticism of Neil Hamilton. In a handwritten memo reporting the conversation, he recorded that there were two options: the committee could either deem the case to be *sub judice*, or it could "exploit" its Tory majority to protect Mr Hamilton.

This may be how business is routinely conducted in the Whips' Office. But it is not how business ought to be conducted. For other MPs to claim that Mr Willetts's only crime was to commit the conversation to paper — in other words, to be caught — shows how deep the vein of cynicism runs. *Prima facie*, Mr Willetts's real crime was to breach the Chinese wall that is supposed to separate the executive from the legislature.

A whip's job is to ensure that government business is passed through the House. It is perfectly proper for whips to exert pressure upon MPs to vote according to their party's manifesto rather than their consciences. It is not proper for whips to ask committees to put naked party interest before the interest of Parliament. If Mr Willetts did this, he is culpable of lowering the esteem in which

politicians of all parties are now held. Mr Willetts's friends will doubtless argue that these practices are widespread and have always been so. This is not persuasive: the power of the executive relative to Parliament has increased hugely in recent decades. MPs should in any case be wary of confusing practice with principle. If such has been the practice, it ought to be stopped.

The House of Commons now resembles the City of London in the mid-1980s. All sorts of dubious practices, such as insider dealing, were tacitly tolerated in the Square Mile until they were made illegal. In order to prevent traders exploiting the knowledge of corporate financiers, Chinese walls were set up, with compliance officers to enforce them. That was the only way in which self-regulation could work. If Parliament wants to continue to regulate itself, it could learn a lesson from the self-denying ordinance that is now practised in banks.

Moreover, it must be seen to regulate itself justly and openly. To that end, the Standards and Privileges Committee should set up a sub-committee to investigate in open session all the allegations surrounding Mr Hamilton, and ask the Commons to give it the powers to take evidence on oath and allow legal representation. This could easily be done by a simple vote on the floor to amend the committee's standing orders. It would be in line with how the Nolan committee envisaged such inquiries being conducted.

Parliament should remember that its new procedures are on probation. The Nolan committee will revisit them next year to examine how well they have worked. The spotlight shining upon the Commons over the next few months will be fierce. In the interests of all politicians' reputations, it is important that they do not flinch in the glare.

SECOND CHANCE

Saddam must be kept out of the new Kurdish conflict

International politics rarely permits second chances. When it does they must not be ignored. The unexpected revival of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), evident in its recapture of Sulaimaniya and advances on Degala and Koi Sanjaq, suggests that the strategic advantage grasped by Saddam Hussein through his alliance of convenience with the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) might prove tenuous.

The extent of the PUK recovery is uncertain. The claim that it might move on Arbil, the city whose fall triggered the last crisis involving Baghdad and Washington, looks ambitious at present. Jalal Talabani, its leader, has been circumspect about his intentions. The deal with Iraq struck by Massoud Barzani and the KDP should not seduce the Allies into taking sides in the Kurdish fratricide. The potential power of Iran over the PUK is as challenging to the West as Saddam's courting of the KDP. The West as Saddam's courtier of the KDP. The United States has rightly urged a ceasefire and offered the offices of the State Department for renewed negotiations. The true interests of Iraqi Kurds should be served by unity within their own ranks. Internal rancour best serves Saddam Hussein.

Whether or not such discussions can be brokered, one matter must be absolutely clear. Iraq cannot again be permitted to use its forces to change the course of Kurdish affairs. When 40,000 troops and 450 tanks

crossed the 36th parallel and then entered Arbil in August, the Clinton Administration claimed that they had evaded US detection. That statement was either a shocking indictment of American Intelligence or masked an equally disturbing reluctance to take political risks resisting Saddam.

The White House then responded by launching 44 missiles against southern Iraq and extending the no-fly zone up to the 33rd parallel. This move had considerable military virtue, but the abandonment of northern Iraq led most observers to conclude that Saddam had emerged stronger from the overall exchange.

On this occasion there can be no doubt that Saddam has both the willingness and the weaponry in the region to take further part in this conflict. Were he to do so and push back the PUK a second time, it would be a humiliation for the United States and its allies. Washington must make it transparent that any second intervention would trigger a telling military response aimed directly at Iraq's forces entrenched outside Arbil. It should be backed by other nations. Better still, those troops should move immediately to positions below the 36th parallel. As Saddam observes his manoeuvre in the north unravelling, he could, with one eye on the American electoral calendar, consider it worthwhile taking on the West once more. He should be disabused of any such notion.

'Free and fair' vote in Bosnia elections

From Sir Kenneth Scott

Sir, Sir Terence Clark (letter, October 9) is right in pointing out that the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) did not use the words "free and fair" in their certification of the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But his assertion that none of the conditions specified in the Dayton peace agreement existed "to even the minimum acceptable degree" ignores the following facts:

1. The multi-ethnic Provisional Election Commission, which I chaired during most of the preparations for the elections, ensured that the elections were conducted in an orderly and technically correct way. They passed off virtually without violence, contrary to widespread predictions.
2. A large number of opposition parties took part in the elections. They received substantial financial help from OSCE for their campaigns, had access to state-controlled as well as independent media to put their message to the electorate, were able to hold political meetings and rallies with very little disruption or interference during the two months of campaigning, and won a total of 57 out of the 265 seats in the three parliamentary assemblies.
3. The Election Appeals Sub-Commission, consisting of Muslim, Croat and Serb judges with a Norwegian chairman, imposed a number of penalties for breaches of the electoral rules (mostly by the three ruling parties). These included fines, disqualification of candidates and dismissal of corrupt election officials.
4. None of the parties has seriously challenged the results.

The high turnout of voters (however one estimates the size of the electorate, which nobody knows precisely), and the relative success of the opposition in making inroads into the monopoly of power, demonstrated that the people of Bosnia wanted the elections to be held and had faith in OSCE's assurance of the secrecy of the ballot and the overwhelming verdict of international observers was that the elections had passed off as well as could have been expected in the circumstances.

It is easy to say that the elections were not "free and fair" in the generally accepted meaning of those words. But they represented a small but important step in the gradual process of democratisation, and all those who have the genuine interests of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina at heart have welcomed the outcome.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH SCOTT
(Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, January - October, 1996),
13 Clinton Road, Edinburgh,
October 10.

From Sir John Weston, Permanent Representative, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations

Sir, I am surprised that my former colleague Sir Terence Clark is "amazed" (letter, October 9).

The Security Council was informed in writing on September 29 by Carl Bildt of OSCE "certification" of the election results in Bosnia. In his letter to the UN Secretary-General Mr Bildt said that "conditions have been met for decisions envisaged in paragraph 4 of the Security Council Resolution 1022 to be taken" — i.e. the holding of "free and fair elections".

Of course none of us should pretend that the elections in Bosnia were comparable to elections in Botswana or Berlin. But they tested the political will of the Bosnian people, and by any reasonable standard were a success. That being so, the Security Council had no alternative, and its decision was unanimous.

Yours,
JOHN WESTON,
UK Mission to the United Nations,
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza,
885 2nd Avenue, New York 10017,
October 14.

Drainpipe appeal

From Mr Edmund A. Booth

Sir, It may seem rather trivial to make a planning fuss over a £3 length of pipe; but cost is not the issue at stake in the case of the appeal to be held over a plastic drainpipe at Binderton House, West Sussex, the Grade II listed former home of Anthony Eden (report, October 10).

As the American Bill Bryson comments in his current bestseller on the casual treatment of our sensitive environment, *Notes from a Small Island*:

"It's easy to believe that you can take away chunks of it and that there will still be plenty left. In fact, the country is being nibbled to death."

We owe a lot to our conservation officers for their efforts in protecting us from the "nibblers"; but it seems to take a visitor from overseas to remind us of this.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND A. BOOTH,
16 Grange Road,
Lewes, East Sussex.

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Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Keeping Britain free of rabies

From Mr Adam Sutcliffe

Sir, If quarantine "has been undeniably effective" in keeping rabies out of the UK (leading article, October 14) where is the causal link between the imprisonment of domestic animals for six months and our freedom from rabies? The tragedy is that there is none.

The number of domestic animals entering the UK from EU countries which have developed rabies in quarantine over the last 20 years is nil (letters, October 3). So if all those animals had been released straight into the country without quarantine the difference to our rabies-free status would have been none whatsoever.

Is this a demonstrably effective justification for maintaining our current quarantine laws? If so, then I can claim that the regular mowing of my lawn over the past 20 years has done the job just as well.

Yours truly,
ADAM SUTCLIFFE,
33 Prospect Road, Child's Hill, NW2,
October 14.

From Mr Roger W. Baker

Sir, The present six-month quarantine regulation has a statistical probability of detecting rabies of 88 per cent, thus permitting 12 per cent of quarantined animals to be released, having served their time in kennels, into the UK with undetected rabies.

The same percentage failure can be obtained from two approaches. Firstly, during the last 62 years 28 cases of rabies have been confirmed in animals entering the UK, although none since 1970. Of these, 25 individual animals developed clinical signs during the six-month quarantine period, the remaining three did not.

Secondly, the statistical probability of a rabid animal showing clinical signs within a six-month period is 88 per cent. In the 20th century a policy with a 12 per cent known failure rate is unacceptable.

Within the EU there is no dog rabies, only fox rabies which is a different genotype. The genotype of rabies, be it fox rabies, dog rabies or

racoon rabies, is specific to a particular primary host. There has never been a recorded case of other than a primary host either introducing rabies into a previously unaffected area or of passing the disease to another animal, be it man or beast.

Vaccination alone provides an improved protection for the UK, and vaccination and subsequent blood testing — to demonstrate that the individual animal concerned has satisfactorily responded to the vaccination (under WHO guidelines) — provide safeguards that are significantly greater than quarantine alone.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER W. BAKER
(Veterinary surgeon),
156 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, Kent,
October 14.

From Mr P. J. Ilias

Sir, How unfortunate that the news about possible changes in the British quarantine legislation should include what I regard as tendentious comments.

Advocates for change are not just diplomats or soldiers "who are thinking of their own convenience" as you say in your leading article. Neither are they only "rich people who, say, have holiday homes in France and would like to take their dogs back and forth" as suggested by a quarantine kennel owner (reports, October 14).

Outraged comments by diplomats and soldiers just attract more publicity and as a consequence find their way into newspapers.

I experienced this obnoxious law first-hand when my dog was locked up for six months and barely survived. I am neither a diplomat nor a soldier, but would very much like to take my dog when we go on holiday to the Continent.

The passport for pets policy works perfectly well in Sweden. The only issue is a loss of income for quarantine kennel owners.

Sincerely,
PETER J. ILIAS,
5 Rutland House, Marloes Road, W8,
October 14.

Transport policy

From Professor Keith B. Madelin

Sir, I support Robert Napier's call for more investment in transport (letter, October 8), but it is now unrealistic to expect this to come from public expenditure. No matter how justified the need, the real policies of both the Conservative and Labour parties will give higher priority to education, health and social welfare.

British Rail has now been privatised, so its future investment will depend more upon the needs of the customer than on public subsidies. This leaves roads as the main form of transport remaining in the public sector.

If new means of investment are to be found then new forms of management will be required.

I suggest the management of the present road network should be separated into roads required for the movement of goods and longer distance journeys and local roads requiring low-speed traffic in populated areas. Perhaps the former should be treated as any other utility and their management privatised.

Since the user of such a utility would have to pay extra for better roads or for the congestion created (in spite of the £24 billion already paid in road taxation), the problem becomes one of phasing in a payment system until electronic road charging for individual vehicles can be introduced. The alternatives include an additional, but separate, fuel charge and a separate road-fund licence.

Road congestion must be prevented from polluting our environment and impoverishing our economic and social wellbeing. A more radical solution is now required.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH MADELIN,
University of Birmingham,
School of Civil Engineering,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

From Mr J. O. Holroyd-Doveton

Sir, In your obituary of Lord Finsberg (October 10) you say that Lord Walker and Sir William van Straubenzee are now the only political figures "who can trace their political careers back to the beginnings of the Young Conservative movement". This is incorrect.

Sir Anthony Nutting, a minister who resigned because he disagreed with the Government's policy over Suez, was the first chairman of the Young Conservatives, from 1946-47 (the only YC national chairman to be an MP at the same time).

For the next two years the YC chairman was John Hay, now living in Canada.

He was MP for Henley from 1950-74 and also served as a minister. He first became prominent at the 1946 Conservative Party conference when he proposed that the party's annual report be referred back because no debate had been included in the agenda on policy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOLROYD-DOVETON
(Author, *Young Conservatives: A History of the Young Conservative Movement*, Pentland Press, 1996),
Woodlands, Trusham,
Nr Chudleigh, Devon,
October 14.

Art of illusion?

From Mr S. R. Walters

Sir, You print today a "poem" by Jenny Joseph which has been voted the nation's favourite.

It does not rhyme and it does not scan. It is simply an engaging piece of prose with broken lines. By what stretch of meaning can it be called poetry?

Is it perhaps on a par with John Cage's "music" and Damien Hirst's "art"?

It is what it is called because enough people can be deluded into thinking so. It's all very rum, and very sad.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WALTERS,
Gordon Hills, Spout Lane,
Little Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk,
October 12.

Since the user of such a utility would have to pay extra for better roads or for the congestion created (in spite of the £24 billion already paid in road taxation), the problem becomes one of phasing in a payment system until electronic road charging for individual vehicles can be introduced. The alternatives include an additional, but separate, fuel charge and a separate road-fund licence.

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From Mr L. P. Clemenston

Sir, Poor old Church of England. A guilty feeling? Or why react so sharply?

Mrs Anne Atkins was not "attacking" anyone; she was properly fulfilling the purpose of the *Thought for the Day* slot, to stimulate the mind to consider serious subjects. Well done, Mrs Atkins, and I fully agreed with your sentiments and appreciated the unassuming way you put your point.

Yours faithfully,
L. P. CLEMENSTON,
Ridgefield, Monks Road,
Bakewell, Derbyshire,
October 12.

From the Vicar of Christ Church, Chislehurst

Sir, It is little wonder that the ordinary churchgoer and ordinary incumbent are baffled by belonging to the "Church of England". Mrs Atkins and I or any other member are just as much the Church of England as Mr Shegog (letter, October 12) and his General Synod Communications Department. Why should the Church of England need a right of reply to itself?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
Christ Church Vicarage,
62 Lubbock Road, Chislehurst, Kent,
October 13.

From Mr Tony Blake

Sir, The Reverend Eric Shegog expresses his concern about the use of a platform (Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*) to attack the Church of England without the Church having an immediate right to reply.

Surely this is the case for most congregations listening to vicars in pulpits across the country every week of the year.

Yours faithfully,
TONY BLAKE,
Aspen Lodge,
Parsonage Lane, Tendring, Essex,
October 12.

From Dr S. B. Twiby

Sir, Thought for the day — replace Mr Shegog by Mrs Atkins.

Yours faithfully,
S. B. TWIBY,
Willow Cottage, 16 Moor End,
Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Bedfordshire,
October 14.

From Mr M. Gee

Sir, I quote from your News in Brief item today: "A double killer was still on the run last night after absconding from an open prison where he was being prepared for release... Police described him as dangerous" (my italics).

Open prison and being prepared for release but dangerous? Am I missing something?

Yours, bewildered,
M. GEE,
263 Earlsfield Road, SW18,
October 15.

BBC, Church and homosexuality

From the University Chaplain, University of Sussex

Sir, Christians will go on being divided over their response to homosexual orientation and its proper expression (letters, October 12). What was so offensive about Mrs Atkins's contribution to *Thought for the Day* was that by its tone and content it came across as more of a Polemic for the Day.

The tone was certainly abrasive, which is why the complaint lines to Radio 4 were jammed (report, October 12), and made the proposition that the sinner was to be loved more difficult to take seriously. But to base such a strong attack on what Mrs Atkins supposed Jesus might have said — when in fact he was silent on homosexuality — didn't help her argument.

The equation of adultery with homosexual activity was mistaken, if only because homosexuals have taken no vows. To state so categorically that the only valid approach to the complexity of sexual ethics and the success of the Church is to "sound loud trumpets" added a militancy which won't help those who sit and pray with people severely troubled by the dilemma their orientation imposes on them. Christians do have to wrestle with how they offer to God their whole beings in faithfulness, trust, obedience and charity. Mrs Atkins's *Thought* was more like a battle cry and will only serve to polarise, not to help, a praying and thinking Church honour the relation of the Scriptures to the human condition.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN ASHENDEN,
University Chaplain,
University of Sussex,
Falmer, Brighton, Sussex,
October 12.

From Mr David Hannon

Sir, It has always appeared to me that *Thought for the Day* was intended to be thought-provoking. In this respect, Mrs Anne Atkins undoubtedly succeeded in fulfilling the brief.

Whether I agree or disagree with her is of no significance. However, I certainly found myself forced to sit up and take notice.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. HANNON,
107 Derryboye Road,
Crossgar, Downpatrick, Co Down,
October 12.

From Mr L. P. Clemenston

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On the run

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NEWS

Handgun ban to be extended

An absolute ban on the most dangerous handguns, including semi-automatics of the type used by Thomas Hamilton in the Dunblane massacre, is expected to be announced by the Government today.

People will no longer be allowed to keep handguns at home, but in addition to the Cullen inquiry's recommendations the use of larger repeating handguns will be prohibited anywhere except by the police and armed forces. Page 1

Fines to keep EU budgets in line

Heavy and repeated financial penalties will be imposed on EU states that fail to keep their budget deficits in line with the rules for monetary union under proposals to be announced today by the European Commission. The system has been designed largely under German pressure. Pages 1, 23

Ulster fears

Fears rose of renewed sectarian violence in Northern Ireland after loyalists announced their intention to march along a contentious section of Londonderry's historic walls. Page 4

Mini Land Rover

Land Rover is to spend more than £350 million developing a mini four-wheel drive vehicle within two years, aimed at women and young drivers. It will cost less than £15,000. Page 7

New bedside manner

A new style of family doctor was announced with proposals to deregulate GPs and open the profession to new ways of practice. At present they all have individual contracts. Page 9

Record paddle

Two Britons have made the first unsupported kayak expedition from the source of the Zambezi to the sea. They covered 1,675 miles in three months. Page 10

Fighter flops

Russia's MiG29 Fulcrum fighter is "almost impossible" to navigate and hopeless in medium-range air-to-air combat, according to a new assessment. Page 11

Top soldier

General Sir Charles Guthrie, head of the Army, was confirmed as the next Chief of the Defence Staff to succeed Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge next April. Page 12

The new Napoleon

Sir James Goldsmith has a Napoleonic ego and his Referendum Party is nothing but a rump of disgruntled Tories and neo-nationalists, his critics say in a pamphlet. Page 14

Unhappy Italians

Three weeks after the Italian Cabinet adopted a radical deficit-slashing budget it is facing the first rumblings of popular discontent since it was elected last April. Page 15

Kabul on edge

Kabul is tense as it awaits an invasion. The Taliban militia will be driven back to the Afghan capital when General Ahmed Shah Masood takes the Bagram airbase. Page 16

Face-to-face

Bob Dole faces President Clinton in the second and final presidential debate after launching an last-ditch attack on the President's ethics. Page 17

Ortega comeback

Daniel Ortega, the former President of Nicaragua, is staging a remarkable comeback as the country returns to the polls next Sunday. Page 18

China turmoil

The Chinese Government is considering the closure of its north-western borders to all but bona fide business travellers because of religious unrest. Page 19

Nothing succeeds like excess

Unemployed men who go to the pub are making a network of contacts who can help them to get a job. The modest drinker increases his chances of finding work by 21 per cent over a man who drinks little or nothing. But the hard drinker, who exceeds the "sensible drinking" limit of 21 units a week, has a 30 per cent better prospect of escaping the dole queue. Page 3



Scott, Tracie, Jason and Sharon McCarthy, who were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh gold awards at St James's Palace yesterday. They started on the scheme four years ago with a week's expedition together in the Black Mountains. Page 4

Pay offs

More than £69 million has been paid to departing executives of Britain's 350 biggest companies in compensation over the past three years. Page 27

Water: The companies received an ultimatum to pump more money into pipelines and improve customer services as the industry regulator announced an early review of price controls. Page 27

Winners: The two founders of John David Sports are set to make over £12 million each when the sports-wear retailer floats. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 12.1 points to close at 4050.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 88.0 to 88.6 after a rise from \$1.5795 to \$1.5825 and from DM2.4158 to DM2.4378. Page 30

Football: Fenerbahce, of Turkey, attempt to smooth troubled waters as they prepare to play Manchester United in the European Cup Champions' League. Page 52

Motor racing: Damon Hill's heroic pursuit of the ghost of his father has provided the most vivid and most unbecomingly true story of the sporting year. Page 47

Rugby league: The Great Britain tour team was beaten 30-22 by a New Zealand President's side in Wellington, but Phil Larder, the coach, insisted it would have no bearing on Friday's opening international match. Page 47

Rugby union: French clubs are acknowledged as the dominant force as the Heineken Cup competition's second round gets up. Page 47

Howl set to music: The Kronos Quartet has collaborated with the Beat poet, Allen Ginsberg, to produce a musical version of his poem Howl. It receives its British premiere next month. Page 39

Last testament: One of the world's top gospel groups, the Winans, are on a farewell tour. The four brothers carry a religious message to the "unchurched" young. Page 40

Hart to Hart: The young British actor Ian Hart achieves an unusual double this autumn — playing an Ulster Loyalist terrorist in one film, *Nothing Personal*, and a leading Republican in another, *Michael Collins*. Page 41

Timeful ravishing: The saucy Fifties musical *Lock Up Your Daughters* is back on stage. Page 41

Nigella Lawson says that women should know the full story behind new research linking abortion to breast cancer. Page 21

Spill for choice: Iain R. Webb watches the wearable, wacky and weird at the Paris shows and decides that it's a great season for women who love clothes. Page 20

Rent-a-celebrity: fame accelerates the impact of an expensive advertisement and makes a name for the advertiser as well. Pages 43

Leasing out: Rachel Kelly on aristocrats who preserve family history by letting rather than selling their ancestral homes. Page 45

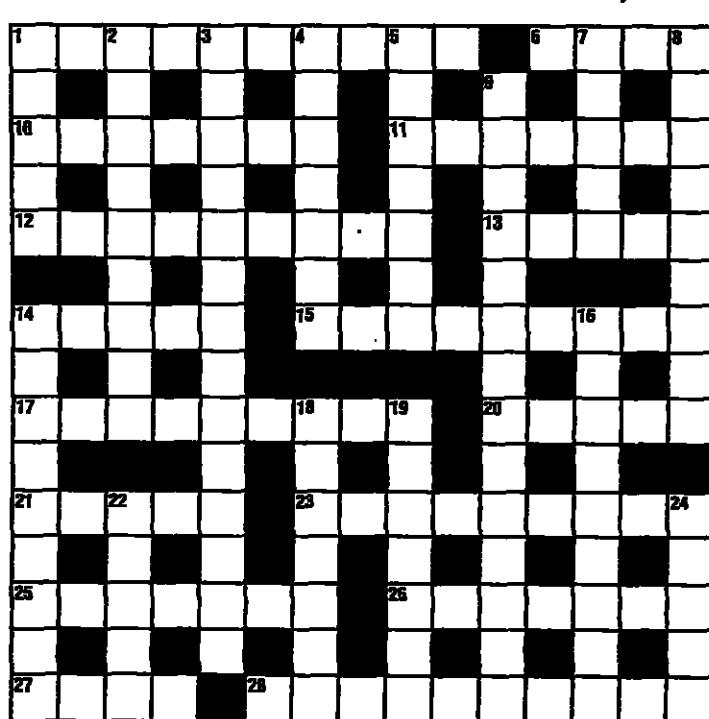
Belgium has been living a psychodrama for two months. The discovery in August of the abominable crimes committed by an organised paedophile ring has released a huge wave of indignation. How could this have happened in a supposedly civilised country? Who is responsible? What are the police, the law and the Government doing to protect their citizens and particularly the weakest among them, the children, from such unbelievable criminal schemes? — *Le Monde*

Labour cannot lose on health and the Tories cannot win. The public does not believe the health service is safe in Tory hands. According to MORI polls for *The Times*, Labour has a bigger lead on health than on any other issue. Page 14

Gian Singh, VC, who won the decoration in Burma in March 1945: Professor Kenneth Muir, King Alfred Professor of English Literature, Liverpool University; David Gilroy Bevan, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Yardley, 1979-92; Joonas Kokkonen, Finnish composer. Page 25

Rabies and quarantine: Church of England and homosexuals: Bosnian elections: transport. Page 22

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,300



- ACROSS**
- Dope found in most unlikely area of jungle (10).
 - Song missing second prize (4).
 - German general not quite inside great protective ring (7).
 - A youth with ring given no end of rubbing? (7).
 - An allergy developed in the throat (9).
 - Empty place head has is rejected by student body (5).
 - Some drop a tenner in the plate at church (5).
 - Dark, so go to bed in cover freely supplied (9).
 - Part of main base needed for the rest of the natives? (6-3).
 - Study composition of little interest (5).
 - Appropriately dressed in a way to receive honour? (5).
 - In general, duck going over — or partridge (9).
 - Many a spy captured in battle (7).
- DOWN**
- Greenland's nature reserve (7).
 - Boy from Rugby going thus to Cambridge (4).
 - Complete return of schoolwork, perhaps, after taking leave (10).
 - State support raised for star (5).
 - Rhetoric is found round soap-boxes, say (9).
 - Find me in engine, as arranged — that avoids stress at the end of the line (8,6).
 - Despicable people, supporters of Napoleon, guillotined (7).
 - Bulb revealed everything in photograph (7).
 - Excellent part of Bible for Irish missionary (5).
 - Plant in second city where all the men work to rule (9).
 - Interpretation of sacred music — work in large volume (4,10).
 - Making a minimal distance in headway, ship abandoned timetable (9).
 - Ruined volume needs fresh cover (9).
 - Bill's victim falls near here (7).
 - Medical man inspiring respect for art (7).
 - False, treacherous place — no good (5).
 - Three elements of an organ (5).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,299**
- REDEEMER SPASH
T O C
DELIVER THE GOOD
O E L A T M T
INFANTRY LEAGUE
E U O L L L
FLAMENCO POWER
L O W A V
RHYME DISCALLY
Q H M S B K M
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7:27 am Sun sets: 6:05 pm
Moon sets: 8:42 pm Moon rises: 11:32 am

First quarter October 19

London 6:05 pm to 7:28 am
Edinburgh 6:05 pm to 7:45 am
Manchester 6:10 pm to 7:40 am
Perthshire 6:28 pm to 7:46 am

FLIGHT SERVICES

LONDON TO GUERNSEY from £75 return.

LONDON TO JERSEY from £75 return.

LONDON TO NEWCASTLE from £58 return.

Phone Air UK on 0345 666777 or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability, airport tax and differing travel periods. Reservations apply. Limited booking period only. See website: p.354

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General: Eastern England will start fairly sunny, while the west and south, along with Wales, will have heavy showers. These heavy showers will break out more widely by afternoon, but most will remain in the west where thunder is possible. Rather chilly in blustery south or southwest winds. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be windy with sun and showers, the latter mostly in the west where they will be prolonged at times. Thunder is possible. Few, if any, showers in the Northern Isles. Temperatures a little below normal.

London, E Anglia, E Midlands, E Cent, N, NE England: Sunny start, but scattered showers by afternoon, some heavy. Wind south or southwest mainly moderate. Max 12C to 14C (54F to 57F).

SE, Cent S, SW England, W Midlands, East Anglia, S Wales: Sunny intervals, occasional heavy showers, particularly in the west.

haze thundery. Wind southwest moderate or fresh, locally strong. Max 14C (57F).

N Wales, NW England, Lakes, IOM, SW Scotland, N Ireland, Eire: Sunny intervals and heavy showers, perhaps with thunder. Wind south or southwest fresh or strong. Max 13C (55F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Sunny spells, afternoon showers. Wind south or southeast mostly fresh. Max 11C (52F).

Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: Cloudy. Heavy showers, often prolonged. Risk of thunder. Wind south or southeast mostly strong. Max 12C (54F).

Orkney, Shetland: Bright or sunny spells and a few showers. Wind southeast mostly strong. Max 10C (50F).

Outlook: Showers at first, then more rain from the west on Friday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dark storm; ds=drizzle; f=fog; g=gale; h=halt; i=ice; m=moderate; n=normal; o=overcast; r=rain; s=sunny; sh=showers; t=thunder; w=wind; x=unknown; y=yellow; z=zero.

Area	Sun	Rain	C	F	M	S	W	X	Y	Z
Abertawe	2.4	0.2	14	57	b					
Anglesey	5.1	0.1	13	56	sh					
Armagh	2.4	1.2	13	56	sh					
Belfast	1.7	0.6	13	56	sh					
Belfast	2.2	0.2	10	50	sh					
Birmingham	8.2	0.05	16	61	s					
Bournemouth	6.9	0.05	15	59	s					
Bristol	7.2	0.1	13	56	sh					
Buckingham	4.0	0.25	9	46	sh					
Cardiff	2.6	0.30	12	54	h					
Cardiff	7.9	0.01	16	59	s					
Cardiff	6.8	0.12	16	61	s					
Cardiff	7.4	0.24	16	61	sh					
Cardiff	5.3	1.13	11	52	sh					
Cardiff	0.1	0.22	11	52	h					
Cardiff	1.8	0.66	13	55	h					
Cardiff	6.1	0.15	15	59	s					
Cardiff	7.6	0.06	16	61	s					
Cardiff	7.1	0.16	16	59	sh					
Cardiff	5.2	0.18	16	61	s					
Cardiff	6.3	0.05	15	59	s					
Cardiff	7.0	0.13	15	59	s					
Cardiff	5.0	0.08	16	61	b					
Cardiff	5.9	0.10	14	57	b					

ASROAD

Area	Sun	Rain	C	F	M	S	W	X	Y	Z
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Cardiff	1.8	0.66	13	55	h					
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Cardiff	7.6	0.06	16	61	s					
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Cardiff	6.3	0.05	15	59	s					
Cardiff	7.0	0.13	15	59	s					
Cardiff	5.0	0.08	16	61	b					
Cardiff	5.9	0.10	14	57	b					

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Sharnbrook, Essex, 17C (63F). Lowest day temp: Lough Fee, Co Tyrone, 6C (43F). Highest night temp: St Bees Head, Cumbria, 12.2m. Highest sunrise: Lough Lough, 6.4m.

LIFEBOATS

Total number of lives saved so far this year: 717

Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 3,458

Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000

Cost to taxpayer: £0

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THE TIMES

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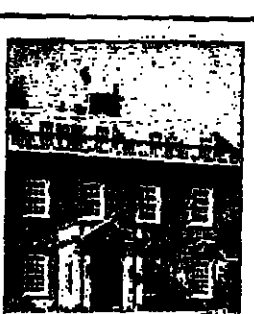
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16 1996

Sterling rise gains fresh momentum

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING'S inexorable rise took on a new momentum yesterday. The pound jumped by more than two pence to its highest level for almost two years, closing at around DM2.4380, from DM2.4170 on Monday.

In US trading, it gained even further, breaking above the DM2.44 level. On its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies, it closed at 88.6, from 88.0 on Monday. "It has taken on a life of its own," said one currency trader.

The dollar also rallied strongly yesterday, hitting a 33-month high against the yen and its highest level against the mark for 20 weeks. It recorded peaks of ¥112.39 and DM1.5411.

In London, the stock market also powered to another new record with the FT-SE 100 index closing 12.1 points higher, at 4,050.8. The index had touched a peak of 4,063.2 in trading but came off its high as Wall Street started to turn lower.

After the London market closed, the Dow Jones industrial average dipped 35 points into negative territory, suggesting that today will see some swift profit-taking on European markets.

Markets on the Continent joined in the outburst of optimism, with new records set in Frankfurt, Zurich, Amsterdam, Madrid, Stockholm, Oslo and Budapest. Shares in Paris hit their highest level since May 1994.

There was no fresh news yesterday to support sterling's rally but investors marshalled every argument at their disposal to justify the buying spree. In Britain, a self-feeding

phenomenon appears to have developed, with the pound's strength leading to confidence in shares and, in turn, foreign interest in shares boosting demand for the pound.

Government bonds were also buoyant again yesterday, partly because investors watching the pound's persistence are betting on making currency gains.

A plethora of reasons are being cited for the pound's popularity - some completely contradictory. Developments in Europe are a key justification for buying sterling.

Some dealers say that sterling is profiting from a perception that it will not join a

European single currency and is therefore being bought as a "safe haven". This camp believes that, with countries like Finland and Italy clamouring to be founder members, the euro might not be the "hard currency" that was always envisaged by Germany.

But another camp says that sterling is being bought on speculation that an incoming Labour government is more likely to be well disposed towards monetary union and take the pound into the single currency. They say that the pound is in demand, along with other currencies that are striving to meet the Maastricht treaty economic convergence criteria. The umbrella term for this investment activity is "convergence trades".

The other key reason being cited in the markets for sterling's rally is a perception that neither a Conservative nor a Labour election win would pose great economic risks, with both parties committed to prudent monetary and fiscal policies. The political risk thought to have held sterling back appears to have largely disappeared since reassuring economic speeches at the main party conferences.

On the margin, stronger oil prices were also quoted as supporting sterling in its status as a petro currency. Crude oil prices traded near to six-year highs yesterday. North Sea Brent crude futures hit a new post-Gulf War high of \$25.06 a barrel, a rise of 20 cents on the day.

Today, London markets are focused on the latest British unemployment and public borrowing figures.

Market and Tempus, page 30

CBI backs Clarke stance on EMU

BRITAIN should keep its options on European monetary union truly open, participate fully in preparations and "try to ensure that the EMU which is going to emerge" is more likely to be one we might want to join, Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said (Janet Bush writes).

In a speech in the City last night, Mr Turner said it was more likely than not that some countries would go ahead with EMU in 1999 or soon after, and Britain's decision should be made against this context. "Whenever Ken Clarke says this, it's called a gaffe but we're in a pretty poor state of public debate when the statement of the obvious is politically dangerous or taboo."

Alternatives, like trying to dissuade others from going ahead, were unrealistic.



John Wardle, left, and David Makin. Their sporting venture is set to make them a fortune

Sportswear founders cash in

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JOHN WARDLE and David Makin, the founders of John David Sports, are set to make more than £12 million each when the sportswear retailer is floated on Monday.

Mr Wardle, chairman, and Mr Makin, chief executive, will still own 35 per cent each of the company after the flotation, worth a further £46.4 million to both on

paper. Up to 30 per cent of the company's shares are to be placed at 285p each, capitalising the company at £132.6 million.

The two opened the first branch in Bury, Lancashire, in 1981. Mr Wardle, 51, was then a civil servant and amateur soccer coach, and Mr Makin, 32, was one of his players. The flotation will raise £8.9 million and will be used to open 25 new branches

each year. There are now 61. "I am comfortable we can take JD Sports to 200 branches," Mr Wardle said.

The company trades as JD Sports, selling branded sportswear, Athletics, which sells the more expensive labels, and JD, which sells only footwear and is concentrated in central London.

Tempus, page 30
City Diary, page 31

Ofwat opts for early review

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WATER companies were yesterday presented with an ultimatum to pump more money into pipelines and improve customer services as the industry regulator announced an early review of price controls.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of Ofwat, will mount a fresh inquiry into the water companies in 1999 - five years before the present price controls expire. Although he was expected to launch a review before the 2004 deadline, the timing of yesterday's announcement was a surprise along with his warning that he would watch leakage rates and supply maintenance ahead of the review.

Mr Byatt also made it plain that some cost savings made by companies must benefit customers. He said: "The water companies are now reporting substantial efficiency savings. We will take full account of these at the next review in order that they can be passed on to customers. Customers have seen prices rising for too long."

The Labour Party, which has mounted a concerted campaign against the water companies over service and shareholder dividends, said the fresh review would not go far enough. Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, said: "This is too little, too late. It means that water companies will continue to roll in money until the year 2000."

Share price falls among the water companies were generally modest with a number of analysts saying that a fresh review had already been factored into the price.

Mr Dobson said a Labour government would put water at the forefront of a regulatory shake-up across the utilities.

Pennington, page 29
Water everywhere, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4050.8	(+12.1)
Yield	3.26%	
FTSE All share	1986.18	(+5.2)
Nikkei	21426.68	(+400.88)
Dax	6012.98	(+2.98)
S&P Composite	702.64	(-0.90)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(nil)
Long Bond	5 3/8%	(86 1/2)
Yield	5.84%	(8.65%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Life long gilt	110%	(110%)

STERLING

New York	1.5827	(1.5805)
Frankfurt	1.5823	(1.5785)
Paris	1.5823	(1.5785)
Madrid	1.5823	(1.5785)
Amsterdam	1.5823	(1.5785)
Stockholm	1.5823	(1.5785)
Oslo	1.5823	(1.5785)
Budapest	1.5823	(1.5785)
Index	88.6	(88.0)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

London	1.5045	(1.5200)
Frankfurt	1.5070	(1.5170)
Paris	1.5070	(1.5170)
Madrid	1.5070	(1.5170)
Amsterdam	1.5070	(1.5170)
Stockholm	1.5070	(1.5170)
Oslo	1.5070	(1.5170)
Budapest	1.5070	(1.5170)
Index	97.1	(97.4)

Tokyo close Yen 112.00

MONTHLY OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$24.25	(\$24.40)
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SEALED

London close	\$381.55	(\$381.65)
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* denotes midday trading price

Gas blow

A row between National Power and United Gas over gas supplies has escalated into a multimillion-pound legal battle that will be closely watched by the rest of the industry.

Page 28

Eleventh hour

Inchcape, the motor dealer, halted the flotation of its insurance subsidiary just hours before it was due to go ahead. Instead Inchcape is selling the Bain Hogg subsidiary to Aon, the international insurance broker.

Page 29

Sacked executives walk off with £69m

By MARTIN WALLER

MORE than £69 million has been paid to departing executives of Britain's 350 biggest companies in compensation for early dismissal over the past three years and the total is accelerating in spite of crackdowns on boardroom greed, according to Pensions Investment Research Consultants, the City pressure group.

PIRC has found that in spite of publication of the report by the committee chaired by Sir Richard Greenbury, which looked at directors' employment contracts and compensation, the amount paid out by top companies is fixed stubbornly at £20 million and above each year, and is rising.

Companies have argued that long notice periods, which

serve to enlarge eventual compensation payments if contracts are terminated, are necessary to allow recruitment in a competitive market.

However, PIRC said: "The accusation of self-interest has not been easily dispelled, particularly when the market rate is set by directors who often benefit from that same practice." As a demonstration, 63 executive directors drawn from FT-SE 100 companies sit as non-executives setting the pay of their colleagues on a further 70 large companies. This year's sample of 78 of the country's biggest companies found only eight had reduced directors' contracts to the 12 months recommended by Greenbury.

Pennington, page 29

Barclays sets up new fund business to invest £230bn

By ROBERT MILLER

BARCLAYS yesterday created the second largest fund management business in the world to invest £230 billion belonging to pension funds, charities and insurance companies.

Barclays Global Investors was born out of a merger of BZW Barclays Global Investors and BZW Investment Management and includes last year's \$440 million US acquisition of Wells Fargo Nikko Investment Advisers.

The new business is second only in size to Fidelity, the American fund manager that looks after nearly £260 billion.

About 11 managers left the newly enlarged Barclays fund management arm this week because of the overlap

created by the merger. The investment group declined to comment on payoffs, but it is understood that the departing managers received an average of one year's salary as compensation.

Lindsay Tomlinson and Patricia Dunn have been appointed joint chief executives of Barclays Global, while Fred Crauer becomes chairman. The group looks after 1,300 clients in 22 countries and has offices in Europe, the US, Japan, Australia, Canada and Asia.

Until yesterday's announcement the two Barclays investment arms had very distinctive approaches to managing money.

One, which included the

Wells Fargo Nikko business, concentrated on the index-tracking and the computer-based concept of looking after funds.

The other practised the more traditional hands-on management technique of selecting each individual share, bond or other types of investment instrument.

Bottomley plea to help lottery-cash applicants

By Jon Ashworth

BUCKINGHAM Palace has urged accountants and lawyers to assist smaller applicants for National Lottery funds. Mrs Bottomley said many potential beneficiaries of lottery money were unable to clear the minimum threshold.

It can cost £15,000 to £20,000 to submit an application for £500,000 in lottery funds. Mrs Bottomley, hailing the success of the Professional Firms Group (PFG), which provides more than £2 million a year in fee-paying work to community projects, urged firms to widen their net to take in lottery applicants. She said the PFG was providing an invaluable service.

Christopher Jonas, PFG chairman, said the venture had snowballed since starting in 1990. Mr Jonas, former chairman of Drivers Jonas, the chartered surveyor, said: "It just struck me that big companies were giving big sums of money to the voluntary sector, but professionals were doing nothing. What they did have were skills and time, and they could therefore give professional advice for nothing rather than giving money."

He added: "We set out to achieve ten firms giving 100 hours a year each per annum free, and we've got 400, giving £2 million of professional advice free each year." The PFG falls under the umbrella of Business in the Community, which seeks to encourage greater business involvement in communities. The aim is to develop the PFG into a 500-member association.

For further information on the PFG, contact Caroline Knighton on 01222 468177.



Jonas: success snowballed



Paul Taylor, left, a director of ALEA, and Terry Robinson, deputy chairman, aim to create Russia's first online lottery

UK team to take lottery to Russia

ELLIOT BERNARD, the millionaire property developer, is seeking to create Russia's first online lottery - with help from a former team from Lorrho, the hotels-to-sugar trading group. Terry Robinson, a one-time Lorrho high-flyer, has rounded up former Lorrho colleagues for the venture, which hopes to cash in on Russia's growing affluence (Jon Ashworth writes).

ALEA Limited, a Bermuda-registered company controlled by Bernard family trusts, is seeking to raise £32.4 million through a placing on the Alternative Investment Market. Most of the proceeds will be used to finance the Russian National Lottery, which is expected to "go live" in about eight months. Equipment and personnel will be provided by EssNet, a Swedish lottery company. It was recently appointed to upgrade the Littlewoods Pools handling systems in the UK.

George Walker, Kevin and Ian Maxwell, are among other UK business personalities to target Russia.

NatPower and United Gas in legal fight over supply

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A ROW between National Power and United Gas over gas supplies has escalated into a multimillion pound legal battle that will be closely watched by companies locked into contracts to buy at prices higher than the current market rate.

The generator has served writs demanding £20 million

from United Gas in a long-running dispute over gas that it says United is contracted to buy.

Yesterday the Court of Appeal overturned a summary judgment that had ruled in favour of National Power over disputed gas supply worth £6 million under initial dispute has been assigned to National Power.

It is expected that all the writs will be wrapped up in the one hearing that could take up to 18 months. United Gas disputes delivery of the gas for which it has been

related to £3.7 million of the sum, comes only days after National Power served a fresh writ for £10.6 million. The remaining £2.3 million of the £6 million under initial dispute has been assigned to National Power.

Overturning the summary judgment Lord Justice Hobhouse said: "The explanations given by National Power of the relevant December deliv-

eries have changed frequently and have been self-contradictory."

A spokesman for the generator said that it would pursue the dispute with confidence at a full hearing. United Gas said it was also confident of success.

The contract between National Power and United Gas sold gas for 20p a therm, while the current price has hovered about 8p to 9p a therm.

The gas industry is awash with long-term contracts for the fuel at higher prices than it is currently trading at. British Gas is renegotiating its take-or-pay contracts with oil producers. It has exposure worth about £40 billion.

Industry observers say it can prove difficult to ascertain the true cost of gas in some cases. It is thought that the outcome of the dispute between National Power and United Gas may lead to clearer guidelines over gas contracts.

Concern over holiday inquiry report

BRITAIN'S holiday companies have expressed concern that the Office of Fair Trading is taking far longer than expected to publish its findings into the travel industry (Marianne Curphey writes).

The inquiry was launched more than a year ago amid allegations that the largest

companies were guilty of anti-competitive behaviour, a charge the OFT dismissed two years ago.

The two largest companies, Thomson and Airtours, have both been seen several times. Both own airlines and travel agencies and together control 50 per cent of the British

holiday market. They are believed to be prepared to give ground to avoid a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The inquiry has focused on the relationship between the two operating companies and their high street travel shops: the practice of requiring cus-

tomers to buy expensive insurance policies to qualify for discounts and special offers; the commission the agencies charge to outside tour operators in return for displaying their brochures; and bonus payments allegedly made to staff to encourage them to sell in-house packages.

News Corp expects 20% increase

By George Sivel

RUPERT MURDOCH, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, owner of The Times, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that the current financial year "has opened in a promising way".

He said: "I am on record as saying that we expect a 20 per cent increase in profit for the year. We still expect that and are still aiming for that during the coming year. However, I should say that the first quarter may not be quite up to those expectations, but we will certainly be striving to make up any shortfall."

Mr Murdoch said: "We expect a very good year from our newspaper division in Britain." He told shareholders meeting in Adelaide, South Australia, that The Times "is at an all-time record in terms of circulation", and that "The Sunday Times has never been better".

He also said that News Digital Systems, which makes the smart cards used in satellite television, encryption and digital compression technology, will be floated in the two or three weeks as a separate company. It is based in Britain and half in Israel. Around 20 per cent will be floated.

City 'at risk' if UK says no to EMU

By Martin Waller

MOST European businesses believe that if Britain stays out of the European Monetary Union, Frankfurt will have surpassed the City of London as Europe's main financial centre within five years, according to the seventh annual survey on the relative strength of the two cities from Healey & Baker, the property consultant.

This is the first such survey to see Frankfurt overtaking London. A poll of 500 European board directors by Harris Research put two options. On the assumption that Britain enters EMU, 61 per cent of respondents said that the City would stay dominant and 26 per cent named Frankfurt.

However, on an assumption that Britain opts out of EMU, three times as many respondents saw Frankfurt as top financial centre within five years.

In past polls, London has never fallen below 44 per cent of the vote in any circumstance, always beating Frankfurt.

The survey seems at odds with Continental firms moving activities to London, but Healey & Baker says these expect some UK participation in EMU or London's dominance lasting for at least a while.

Pennington, page 29

Australian PM reviews ownership rules

Share furore hits ministers

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA faces a share ownership scandal after a second government minister was forced to resign for holding shares in a company within his area of responsibility.

Two other ministers, including Peter Costello, Treasurer, came under fire for owning shares that could present a conflict of interest, fuelling talk of further resignations.

Brian Gibson, Parliamentary Treasury Secretary, stood down yesterday after it emerged that he held shares in Boral, a building materials

group, while granting an exemption that gives Boral Electricity access to the Victorian electricity futures market.

His departure came two days after Jim Short, Assistant Treasurer, resigned after it was revealed that he had granted a banking licence to a subsidiary of ANZ, while holding shares in the group. Australia's opposition party is demanding the resignation of John Moore, the Industry Minister, who revealed yesterday that he had not yet sold 43,000 shares in Bligh Ventures, an investment company he founded, because he could not get a high enough price

for them. The resignations are an embarrassment to John Howard, the Prime Minister, who personally introduced a code of conduct for shareholdings on taking office in March in an attempt to improve public confidence. The code states: "Ministers are required to divest themselves of all shares and similar interests in any company or business involved in the area of their portfolio responsibilities." Mr Howard yesterday said he was looking at changing the code to allow "blind" trusts so ministers can hold shares without them causing a conflict of interest.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Standard Life offers deposit account

STANDARD LIFE, the UK's biggest mutual life insurer, is to introduce a deposit account paying interest of up to 5.4 per cent. However, it claims that it does not intend to follow Prudential's lead by launching a bank. The account is to be offered through a link up with Bank of Scotland and will initially be aimed at Standard Life's existing customers. The insurer hopes to encourage hundreds of thousands of policyholders with millions of pounds of maturing endowments to keep their money with it.

Standard Life hopes to attract, in the account's first year, £50 million of an estimated £700 million of maturities. It is offering interest of 4.5 per cent on balances of £1,000 to £9,999; the Halifax Building Society pays between 2.15 and 2.6 per cent. Peter Robertson, Standard Life assistant general manager, said: "Because of our much lower operating costs, we can offer rates which are significantly better than the those available from the high street branches of banks and building societies."

Boot builds profits

HENRY BOOT & Sons, the construction, housing and property company, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.9 million from £2.7 million in the half year to June 30 in spite of a decline in turnover to £75 million from £86.73 million. The company said it continued to adopt "a cautious and selective approach" to construction contracts. Turnover will continue to run at current levels for the foreseeable future, the company said. Earnings were 7.8p a share, up from 7.3p. The interim dividend is lifted to 2.1p a share from 1.95p. The company said unsatisfactory conditions prevail in its markets.

Jefferson outlet falls

A STEEP decline in container prices slashed profits at Jefferson Smurfit Corp, the 46.5 per cent owned associate of Dublin's Jefferson Smurfit paper and packaging group. The US corporation yesterday reported a dramatic fall in third-quarter profits to \$22 million (\$0.20 per share) from \$77 million (\$0.70 per share) for the same period last year. Sales slipped to \$834 million from \$1.1 billion. For the first nine months of 1996 the company earned \$102 million compared with \$182 million last year. Sales slumped to \$2.6 billion from \$3.1 billion for the first nine months of 1995.

E&Y to open books

ERNST & YOUNG is to follow the lead of KPMG earlier this year and become the second of the UK's top accountancy firms to reveal full financial figures. KPMG, in an attempt to circumvent problems of partnership liability, was the first when its audit division became a plc in January. Ernst & Young plans to publish its report and accounts early in December. Nicholas Land, senior partner, said: "People will be able to see a full set of financials." Unlike KPMG, which included notional salaries and profit share because of its plc status, Ernst & Young will reveal simple partnership figures.

IAWS advances 14%

IAWS GROUP, the agribusiness based in Dublin, lifted pre-tax profits 14 per cent to £18.5 million in the year to July 31, helped by steady growth in all divisions. IAWS, which owns the Shamrock Foods distribution network in Dublin, and has fertiliser, animal feed, and fish protein production operations in the Republic of Ireland and the UK, said turnover rose 8 per cent to Ir£554 million. Earnings rose 16 per cent to Ir£11.8p a share. A final dividend of Ir£1.53p makes a total of Ir£12.9p, up 10 per cent. Philip Lynch, chief executive, said the company had invested Ir£10 million over the past year.

Homes starts increase

UK housebuilding activity picked up significantly during the third quarter of 1996, according to the National House Building Council. NHBC figures show that more than 40,700 applications were made to start new homes during the period, an 8 per cent increase over last year. Growth was higher in September with private sector activity rising 24 per cent, the largest monthly increase since May 1994. During September sales of new homes, at 616, increased by 8 per cent over the same month last year.

Texas suffers \$148m loss

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, battered by plunging prices for computer memory chips, said it would offer early retirement to 5,300 employees to cut costs after suffering a \$148 million loss in the third quarter. The loss was attributed to an exceptional charge of \$192 million arising from the acquisition this year of Silicon Systems. Excluding the charge, third-quarter net income plunged to \$44 million from \$289 million. Revenues declined to \$2.84 billion from \$3.43 billion in the third quarter of 1995.

Finnish inflation rises

FINLAND, whose currency joined Europe's exchange-rate mechanism this week, said yesterday that its annual inflation rate had increased slightly to 0.5 per cent in September, from 0.4 per cent the previous month. In September last year, Finland's annual rate of inflation was 0.3 per cent, according to the Government's statistics agency, which said that a 13.6 per cent increase in gasoline prices was the major factor behind the higher inflation, although partly offset by lower interest rates.

CSX buys Conrail

CSX Corporation of Richmond, Virginia, the international transport company, has agreed to pay \$3.4 billion in cash and shares for Conrail Inc, the Philadelphia railway operator. The deal will create one of the world's biggest freight companies, serving the eastern half of the United States from Chicago and New Orleans to Boston, New York and Miami. The company would have annual revenues of more than \$14 billion, serving shippers in 22 states with a 29,645-mile (47,777 kilometres) system.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia S.	2.08	1.98
Austria Sch.	16.01	16.51
Belgium F.	32.79	48.49
Canada C.	2.04	2.08
Cyprus Cyp.	0.789	0.714
Denmark Kr.	9.85	9.05
Finland Mk.	7.90	7.10
France Fr.	6.55	7.34
Germany Dr.	2.57	2.56
Greece Dr.	394	369
Hong Kong \$	12.86	11.86
Iceland L.	115	95
Ireland P.	1.03	0.95
Israel Sh.	6.43	4.78
Italy Lira	2517	2262
Japan Yen	161.10	175.10
Malaysia M.	0.012	0.012
Netherlands G.	2.865	2.635
New Zealand \$	2.42	2.20
Portugal Esc.	10.81	10.01
Spain Ptas	205.50	237.00
S. Africa R.	11.06	10.26
Sweden Kr.	7.75	197.00
Switzerland Fr.	2.12	1.94
Taiwan N.T.	15.650	14.250
USA \$	1.679	1.549

Rates for small remittance bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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□ Water review is blessing in disguise □ EMU-less London the loser □ Investors hold key to payoff payments

Mr Byatt opens his umbrella

□ **METHODICAL** as usual, Ian Byatt has prepared for the general election early. By announcing his mid-term price review three years in advance, the water regulator has his defensive umbrella in place, whatever slings and arrows the campaign outrageously throws at him. When Labour complains or the Tories promise, he is already dealing with it, even if the answer is not due until 1999.

Water shares initially fell yesterday, sensing that an early announcement might mean early shocks. Far from it. It is inconceivable that any regulator would forgo a built-in option to review a ten-year price regime half way through. Imagine the political opprobrium, or the line of questioning, if the Director-General decided to sit on his hands for five years.

The first review, announced a few months earlier in the cycle, cut average annual real price rises allowed for 1995 to 2000 from nearly 4 to 1.4 per cent, even though the EU had piled on an extra £24 billion capital spending in between. Second time round, the process should be faster but Mr Byatt will have to work hard to turn real price rises averaging 0.4 per cent for 2000-2005, under his 1994 regime, to real price cuts of 2 per cent.

If a Labour government comes

to power, the existence of a timetable may deter instant unwise action from Frank Dobson, who is hostage to his own pre-election rhetoric. Mr Byatt is already making things easier, talking more about leakages and less about metering as the way to save water.

Mr Dobson's claim, that water companies are not investing as much as they are being paid to, had some statistical backing in 1994-95. Imminent new figures will show if companies again spent under budget because of savings on capital costs, as they planned. If so, Mr Byatt will have more to transfer to customers along with operating savings and, in the current regulatory fashion, challenging targets for future savings. But he will need to guard against expensive new demands floating around in Brussels.

Water companies must expect a tougher line. Unlike gas or telephones, their shares have outperformed the index since privatisation, despite dodgy periods before the last election and the last review — which will doubtless recur. This will count

against them until customers enjoy falling prices as well as reliable supplies.

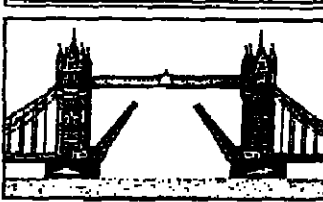
At least this regulator does not believe in the euthanasia of the shareholder, which is implicit in Ofgas's approach to the comparable Transco monopoly, or Ofwat's new line on National Grid. Companies have plenty of time to make their own price offers to customers, as one or two did last time. They would be wise to do so.

One might bravely agree to take on inflation risk and offer customers stable cash prices. That is something even the toughest regulator cannot guarantee.

A tale of two cities

□ **HARD** to credit, as you sit fuming on a becalmed Circle Line this morning, but continental businessmen rather like London's public transport. In surveys it regularly comes up as one of the main selling points to firms thinking of locating there. The tastes of foreigners are indeed sometimes hard to

PENNINGTON



fathom, and now a majority apparently regard London as uninhabitable without European Monetary Union, according to research from Healey & Baker, the property consultants.

The methodology at least is rather more stringent than the usual Euro-waffle. The basic survey was carried out with a good sample of executives across Europe including the UK. Healey & Baker then followed this up with questions to a smaller number of their continental clients in financial services alone, asking just why London should potentially have slipped behind Frankfurt as their ideal place of work.

The reasons were threefold. First, emotional, in that Britain

was putting out signals that it wanted to remain offshore, while onshore was where the real action was. Secondly, concern over the cost barriers that an offshore business would have to surmount to become part of the onshore trading block. Thirdly, economic, in that the Maastricht criteria meant a low inflation,

low interest rate environment within the EMU, with Britain presumably a high-spending, high-borrowing fringe player by contrast. Businessmen, understandably, prefer the former, even if they might have to pay all their employees a higher wage under the social chapter.

The easy conclusion is that half or more of the financial services community would decamp to Frankfurt the day that Prime Minister Sir James Goldsmith announced we would be staying out of EMU. Wrong, both because those firms couldn't — the total workforce in Frankfurt is only just equal to that of the City of London, and the available office space is half that of London as a whole — and because they won't. But it does suggest that the bickering over

Europe is having an unsettling effect on businessmen. In which case they will just have to cope — at least until the general election.

A raspberry to Greenbury

□ **JURIES** are easily swayed, but a High Court judge can never be influenced by the opinions of a mere newspaper. It is therefore safe to say that if John Clark, former BET boss whose suit against Rentokil for wrongful dismissal should conclude today, gets away with it he will be in a league of his own.

This is no comment about the merits of his case. But he would shoot straight to the top of the table of big compensation payouts made so far this year, whereas if he were forced to rub along on the measly amount on offer from Rentokil he would have to be content with fourth or fifth place. The most depressing aspect of such a table, compiled by the indefatigable PIRC, is its incompleteness. Not only will the odd payment have slipped through the cracks — several

have been announced in the few days since it was compiled — many are simply not tracked in any public document. Had Mr Clark decided to slink away with the sum Rentokil had agreed, it would never have been revealed to either sets of shareholders, but simply rolled up into the cost of the acquisition.

There is plenty of evidence that the crackdown on this particular aspect of corporate greed predated the publication of the Greenbury report. As ever, it is up to individual shareholders rather than voluntary codes to limit such greed by their own actions, or accept it with as much good grace as they can muster.

Matching accounts

□ **PROBABLY** the weirdest personal finance product ever dreamed up comes from Hong Kong Bank in Mauritius. Apparently Mauritians are mad about British football but generally ignore all teams save for Liverpool — no, I am not making this up — and Manchester United. The bank has produced two separate accounts, linked to each club. Each point gained in the Premiership puts 0.01 per cent on the interest rate earned by their respective supporters. Just as well no one chose Blackburn Rovers, or they might end up paying the bank.

Inchcape halts float and sells Bain Hogg to Aon

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AON, the international insurance broker, has snapped up Bain Hogg, the insurance subsidiary of Inchcape, just hours before it was due to be demerged and floated on the stock market.

The deal is the latest stage in Inchcape's plan to clear hundreds of millions of pounds in debts. Only three weeks ago Inchcape said it would probably demerge Bain Hogg in order to reduce group borrowings.

Aon, the second biggest insurance broker in the world and with a market capitalisation of \$6 billion, paid £160 million for Bain Hogg. Inchcape said it expected to shoulder an exceptional loss of £195 million, most of which would be goodwill.

Analysts had put Bain Hogg's value at demerger at about £130 million, although estimates earlier this year had topped £250 million. However, Bain Hogg has had a poor year so far, with pre-tax profits falling almost £5 million to £20 million in the first half.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of Inchcape, said: "For some months now we have believed that demerger was the most likely route for the divestment of Bain Hogg. However, having secured a price significantly above the value we expect the market to place on the company if demerged, I am convinced that the disposal to Aon represents the best value for our shareholders." Inchcape will

continue to use Bain Hogg as a brokerage service on a worldwide basis.

For the demerger, Inchcape would have needed to put £13 million into Bain Hogg to give it sufficient capital, while restructuring costs would have been a further £20 million. One analyst said: "The price is slightly disappointing. Another £20 million would have been nice."

Aon has a strong US presence but little exposure to the UK insurance market. Staff numbers in the combined operation will probably be cut. Bain Hogg employs about 4,500 people worldwide and Aon's UK activities have a 3,000 workforce.

Philip Cushing, Inchcape's chief executive, said he had

received a number of approaches, and though he declined to give names, both Aon and Alexander & Alexander, its US rival, tabled bids last year. Patrick Ryan, chairman and chief executive of Aon Corporation, said Bain Hogg provided a good UK base and "a very strong platform for further development on the continent of Europe, in the Far East, Latin America, the Caribbean and the African continent." Piers de Montfort, managing director of Morgan Stanley, who acted for Aon, said: "We were competing against the demerger process and our first meeting was only two weeks ago."

Times, page 30
City Diary, page 31

Boots sets up shop in Dublin

BOOTS the Chemist is to open its first store in the Republic of Ireland next month and is planning to open a further four within the next few years (Eileen McCabe writes).

The Republic's first Boots The Chemist store, costing £3.6 million, will be in the new Jervis shopping centre in the heart of Dublin and will employ 150 people. Next year two smaller Boots outlets employing 60 people will be opened in Tallaght and Dun Laoghaire on the outskirts of Dublin.

Boots said it was also negotiating to spend a total of £3.25 million on opening a store in each of the two out-of-town shopping developments now under construction outside Dublin that together would employ 190.

Superscape soars on Microsoft deal

By NOEL FUNG

SHARES of Superscape VR, the virtual reality company, rose 162p to 555p yesterday on news of a worldwide licensing and distribution agreement with Microsoft.

Superscape's Internet 3D web browser, called VISCAPE, will be included in Microsoft's Internet Explorer Starter kit, which will be distributed to all new Windows 95 users. Users will be given a 60-day trial period before deciding to pay for an upgrade to a full version of VISCAPE.

John Chiplin, Superscape's chief executive, said: "The agreement gives us a level of distribution we could not even dream of before."

The Microsoft agreement was announced as Superscape disclosed an increase in pre-tax losses to £2.87 million from £1.75 million for the year to July 31. Losses were 37.9p a

share (30.7p loss). There was again no dividend. Losses were attributed to substantial investment in staff, marketing and the development of new products. Mr Chiplin said: "We could have reported a profit last year. But we prefer to keep building the infrastructure to get the market while it is still young."

Superscape's shares have had a roller-coaster ride this year. They rose strongly from a flotation price of 194p in April last year to 780p in February but plunged in April to 605p when the company warned of higher losses.

Mr Chiplin said the company would continue its strategy of teaming up with leading technology companies and investing for the future. He said more announcements of alliance would be made over the next few months.

Gehe sells drugs interests

GEHE, the German pharmaceutical wholesaler that is waiting to hear if it may re-bid for Lloyds Chemists, has sold its generic drug manufacturing operations for DM1.2 billion (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Gehe has sold four separate groups and its majority stake in a fifth unit. The largest single operation, Azapharma, has been sold to Sandoz, the Swiss chemicals and drugs giant, for DM640 million.

Karl-Gerhard Eick, finance officer, said the move was not directly related to Gehe's attempt to take over Lloyds. Gehe and UniChem are waiting to hear if the Department of Trade and Industry accepts they have found possible buyers for most of Lloyds' wholesaling business.

Saga Petrol set to seek Santa Fe

By CARL MORTISHED

SAGA PETROLEUM, the independent Norwegian oil company, is expected to join bidders for Santa Fe Exploration, the North Sea exploration arm of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Santa Fe, whose assets are thought to be worth \$1 billion, is being auctioned by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank. The oil company produces about 60,000 barrels a day from its interests in the Miller, Gryphon and Alba fields in the North Sea. Michael Bourgeois, Santa Fe's managing director, said: "Saga is evaluating the company at the moment, but they have not made a formal offer yet."

Saga would be competing with other major oil companies, thought to include Enterprise Oil and Arco, the US energy company that last year was trumped by Norway's Statoil in a bid battle to take over Aran Energy, the Irish oil exploration company.

Santa Fe has proven and probable reserves totalling 160 million barrels, and interests in 25 offshore blocks in Ireland. It has a 40 per cent share in Enterprise Oil's Corrib North Well in Ireland, which last week made a gas discovery.

Luggage from Tie Rack

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM



For Roy Bishko it is a case of something different

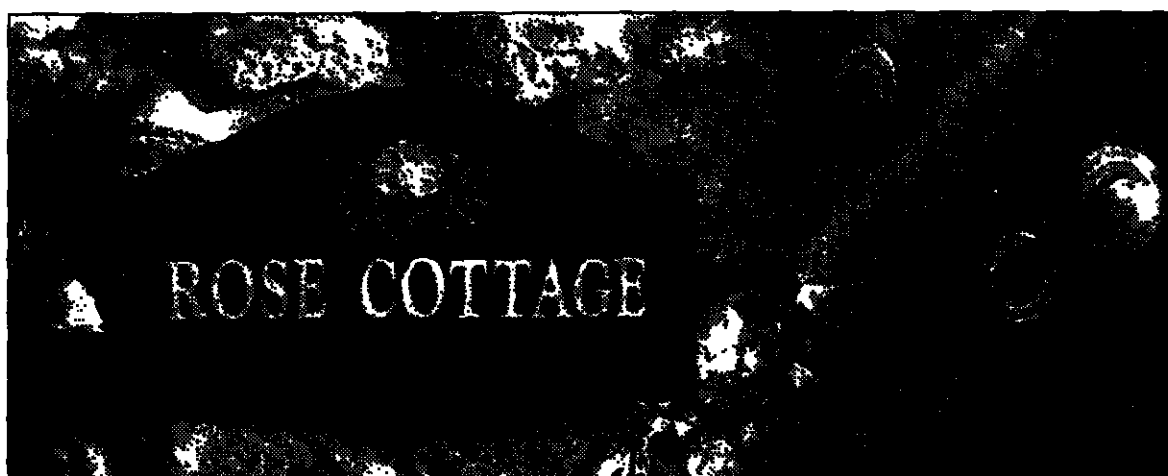
TIE RACK, the accessories retailer, is expanding into a new business selling luggage with wheels and may open up to 25 outlets.

The company has been testing "The Rolling Luggage Company" for the past 18 months at Heathrow and Waterloo Station. By the end of this year, it expects to have five branches at Heathrow and to open its first outlet in Lisbon, Portugal. Roy Bishko, chairman, said: "We are not looking at creating another Tie Rack, we are adding it on." The business, in which the company has invested about £250,000, was already profitable, said Mr Bishko, and was a way of building on Tie Rack's expertise in airport retailing. He was speaking as the company revealed a 25 per cent jump in interim profits.

Tie Rack made a £604,000 pre-tax profit in the 28 weeks to August 11, compared with £490,000. Sales were up 17 per cent at £48.7 million, although like-for-like sales growth was "between 0 and 5 per cent". Mr Bishko said: "So far in the second half, trading is generally satisfactory."

Earnings per share were up 11 per cent to 0.7p and the interim dividend is raised 20 per cent to 0.6p, payable on January 14.

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Geo market assault poised to raise £11m

By OLIVER AUGUST

GEO Interactive Media, the software company run by Israeli elite soldiers, will be capitalised at £100 million when trading in its shares gets under way on Friday.

Shares are being placed with institutional investors at 100p each. Net proceeds of £10.9 million will be used by the company to market its internet transmission programme, which uses a new form of streaming data.

The placing is being underwritten by Panmure Gordon and represents 12 per cent of company equity. The remaining shares will be held by the management.

Geo's main product range is Emblaze, the world's first solution for real-time multimedia transmission over the internet.

Emblaze Creator and Emblaze E-mail, the two main products, will be distributed globally and are believed to be at least one year ahead of similar programmes developed by competitors.

Naftali Shani, Geo's executive chairman, is the former controller of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. He primarily employs Israel Defence Force military programmers in their early twenties.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Share rise ready for pause after new high

THE London stock market was showing signs of running out of steam last night and is expected to open lower across the board when trading resumes this morning.

As one leading market-maker told *The Times*: "The market is starting to look tired after a good run and everybody has got stock. The options are due to expire later this week and there are a lot of open positions out there."

The FT-SE 100 index extended its record-breaking yesterday, but with the Dow Jones average dipping below 6,000 in early trading, the gains in London were quickly halved. The index ended 12.1 points higher at a new closing high of 4,050.8.

Blenheim, Britain's biggest exhibitions company, raced up 23p to 496.5p as United News & Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*, emerged as the long-awaited bidder.

Its agreed offer of 500p a share values the entire group at £592 million, but hopes that an auction for Blenheim would develop have been dashed. VNU, the Dutch publisher, which last week bought a 14.9 per cent stake in Blenheim, has thrown in the towel. Reed Elsevier is believed to have pulled out of bid talks with Blenheim last week.

UNM closed 40p higher at 693.1p.

The water companies took a tumble after Ian Byatt, the industry regulator, announced that he was bringing forward his price review by five years to 1999. Among the losers were Anglian, 11p to 542.5p, Hyder, 17p to 695p, Severn Trent, 6p to 597.5p, Thames, 5p to 547.5p, United Utilities, 10p to 580p and Yorkshire, 10p to 605.5p.

Wessex Water also tumbled 19p to 325p on reports that WMX, the old Waste Management Group, may dispose of its 20 per cent stake.

Royal Bank of Scotland dropped 13p to 522.5p as BZW turned seller. It has cut its pre-tax profit forecast from £709 million to £675 million because of increased competition for its Direct Line insurance subsidiary.

Profit-taking left Manchester United 26p lower at 532.5p although City speculators are reluctant to rule out the possibility of a bid. In the past week the names of Granada, up 5p at 885p, Whitbread, up 2p at 690.5p and even IMG, the



Water shares fell as Ofwat's Ian Byatt revealed new plans

international marketing group headed by Mark McCormack, have been tipped as potential suitors. But the Manchester United board still controls more than 20 per cent of the shares and that seems to rule out the prospect of an aggressive bid being made.

Commercial Union ran into profit-taking after its recent speculative run, with the

discounting was taking its toll on margins and revenue. BSKyb, the satellite television company 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, continues to go from strength to strength. The price edged towards the 700p level, touching a high for the day of 683p before ending 18p dearer at a new high of 676.5p on turn-

ing the disposal of its Bain Hogg insurance broking arm for £160 million to Aon. But the deal is likely to dilute Incheape earnings and BZW has accordingly reduced its forecast by £15 million to £175 million. Confirmation of the sale left Willis Corroon 21p lighter at 127.5p and Sedgwick 4p easier at 117p. It had been previously thought that Aon would make a move for one of them.

The Rack, the niche retailer, received the thumbs-up to half-year figures showing better than expected pre-tax profits of £604,000 compared with £490,000 for the corresponding period. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, was thinking of raising its profit forecast for the full year by £300,000 to £8.8 million.

A profits warning left Wakehouse nursing a fall of 4p at a five-year low of 16p after the group said that second-half results would be well short of expectations.

A profits setback at the half-year stage left AF Bulgin 9p lower at 59.5p, and the 'A' 1p easier at 134p. Henry Boot finished 11p lighter at 227.5p after a modest increase in profits at the half-year stage.

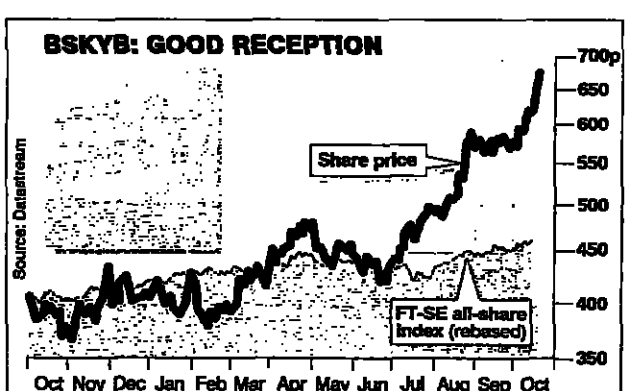
GLT-EDGED: The London market got off to a flying start, reflecting the benefits of a stronger pound and Far East support overnight for Euronext markets.

The record run on the equity market has directed attention towards index-linked issues where the Bank of England issued further stock which was quickly snapped up. This included £150 million of Treasury Index-Linked 2½ per cent 2001 and £150 million of Treasury Index-Linked 2½ per cent 2013.

All eyes are now focused on next Tuesday's dual auction which will include £2 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2001 and £1.5 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2015.

In the futures pit the December series of the long gilt rose £1.32 to £110.25 as 46,000 contracts were completed. Among cash stocks, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £7.16 to £102.12, while among shorter dated issues Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £3.32 better at £104.96.

NEW YORK: On Wall Street broad profit-taking prevented further strong gains and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 2.89 points ahead at 6,012.98.



BSKYB: GOOD RECEPTION

COMMODITIES									
ICE-CLOR (London 6.00pm)					GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)					WHEAT		BARLEY		
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brent Physical	24.65	+10			Jan	92.85	Jan	92.85	
Brent 15 day (Nov)	24.70	+10.00			Mar	96.85	Mar	96.75	
Brent 15 day (Dec)	24.75	+10.00			May	102.50	May	101.25	
WTexas Intermediate	25.35	+10			Jul	104.25	Sep	94.70	
WTexas Intermediate (Dec)	25.00	+10.00			Volume	427	Volume	21	
PRODUCTS & FERT					POTATO (\$/lb)				
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)						Nov	Open	Close	
							10.00	10.00	
							10.25	10.25	
							74.00	74.00	
							76.00	76.00	
							76.00	76.00	
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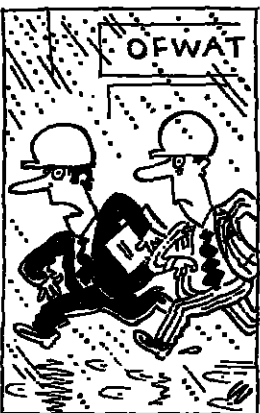
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Vacant spot for Internet expert

AFTER his run-in with the Bank of England last week, Lord Mancroft probably knows more than most about the problems of Internet banking. What a pity that he will not now be sharing this knowledge with visitors to the Offshore 2000 conference in London next month. Lord Mancroft — who, in spite of a lack of banking experience, found himself chairman of the European Union Bank — was due to take part in a panel discussion of the impact of the Internet on offshore financial services. But even before the Bank of England started warning savers to treat EUB with extreme caution, it seems he had decided to pull out. The conference organiser, Philippe Gelin, has tried to get a more technically knowledgeable speaker from EUB — so far without success. "There's not much response from the bank in Antigua," he said. Now there's a surprise.

Last-minute deal

INCHCAPE took no chances with the disposal of Bain Hogg, its insurance broking subsidiary. Having announced it was planning to demerge the insurance business, it started talks with Aon, the giant insurance broker. But at 4am yesterday as the deal was about to be signed, listing prospectuses for Inchcape's 36,000 shareholders were rolling off the presses, just in case the sale fell through. "It was a last-minute deal, really gripping stuff," said Philip Cushing, Inchcape group chief executive.



"Perhaps it's time we had a price review"

FRANK FIELD, the MP who chairs the Social Security Select Committee, has penned how to pay for the future: Building a stakeholder's welfare, on how to reform pensions and savings. But it seems he could do with a little funding help himself. "I've paid for the book to be published," he said at its launch in the Commons yesterday. "And I'd like sales to cover the cost."

New fax, old facts

THE British Airways German subsidiary had a bad day yesterday. First a business paper reported BA would have its operations in the fatherland. Then an employee unwittingly made himself the ideal candidate for being restructured and outsourced. The nameless man faxed out a year-old press release announcing that BA was inviting bids for 60 new aircraft.

Sharp dressers

JOHN WARDLE and David Makin, respectively the founding chairman and chief executive of JD Sports, who will become multimillionaires on Monday when 30 per cent of the company is floated, wore sharp City suits yesterday to address investors and the press. In the company offices and shops, however, they wear the labels that have made them rich. Mr Makin, 32, whose favourites are Lacoste and Nike, said that he is not found wearing that fetching Eighties item, the shell suit. However, he conceded: "I may wear one in the year 2000, when they come back into fashion."

Water, water everywhere but never a drop in price

The Ofwat review signals a demand for the industry to improve, says Christine Buckley

The fresh review of water prices will go a little way to stem the recriminations that have welled up around the industry. But only by a little.

Last summer's drought, after one of the wettest winters on record, brought restrictions and heated public approbation on the water companies, including Yorkshire Water which put local hospitals on emergency alert for rota cuts while allowing 33 per cent of its resources to leak away.

Elsewhere hosepipes were declared a luxury while some customers were poisoned by their water company's outpourings and incensed environmentalists complained of dirty beaches. To add insult to injury water bills have risen steeply on the back of a formula that is designed to foster investment. Meanwhile, the shares of water companies have raced ahead in the markets and shareholders have benefited from handsome dividend payouts.

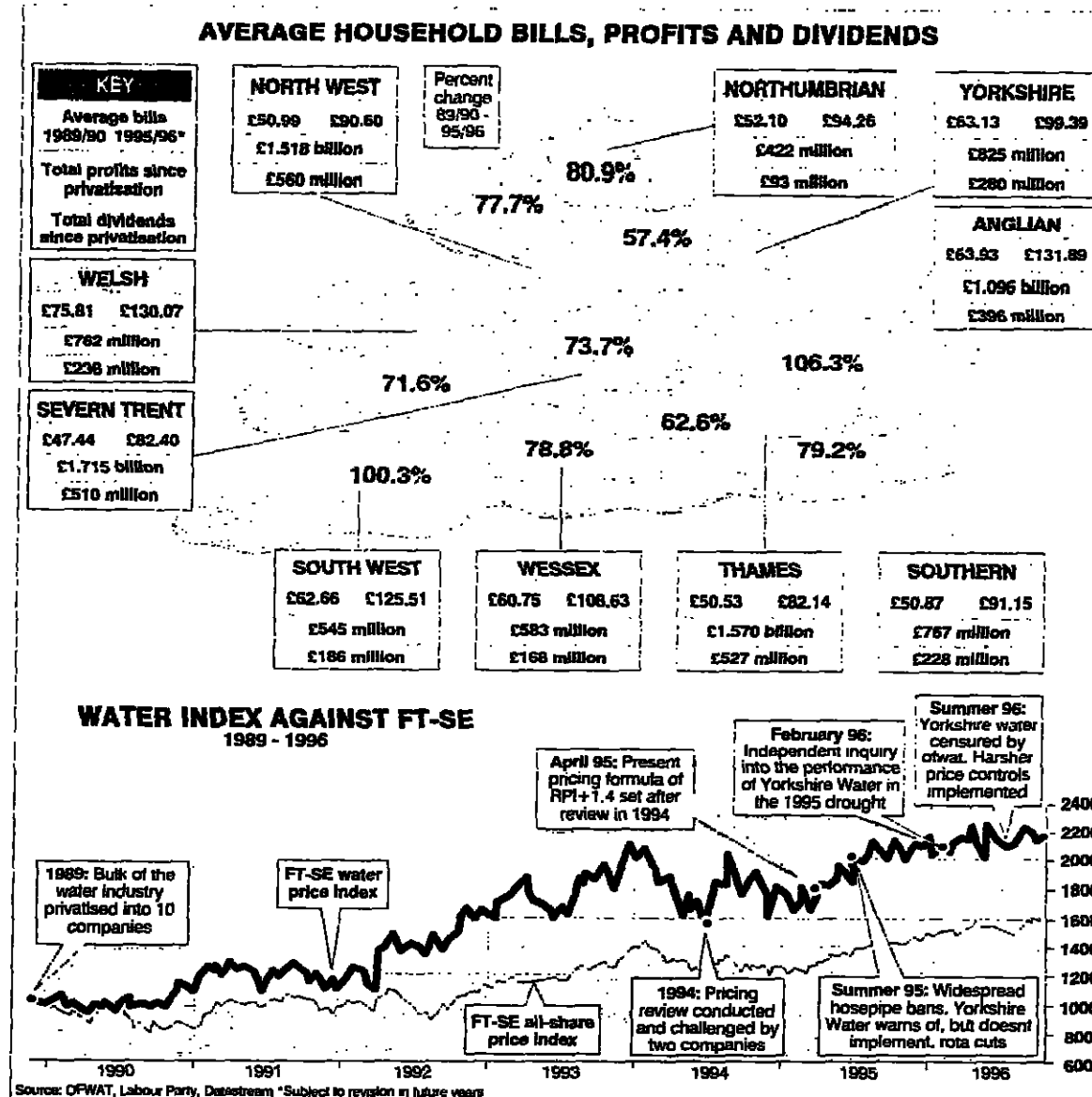
According to the Labour Party, and a host of consumer groups, the water industry has been descending into farce. For them water has been the worst offender in terms of customer service and cost among the privatised utilities, while the companies have amassed large sums of cash to reward investors or to buy other companies.

Small wonder that Labour has mounted a concerted attack on the water companies since last summer's drought. It has been at the heart of the party's criticism of the performance of the privatised utilities and a primary justification for the windfall tax that Labour will impose on utilities if it forms the next government. According to Salomon Brothers, the brokers, the market is discounting a £5.4 billion tax for the water sector.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, has fought a campaign against the framework under which the water industry was sold into the private sector and by which the City has made its investments. A recent report highlighted a write-off of debts of £5 billion for the ten large water companies when they were privatised, tax allowances on £7.7 billion in assets and the freedom from mainstream corporation tax on core businesses.

Mr Dobson has complained that since the sale of the regional companies in England and Wales they have produced profits of £10 billion and have paid out dividends of £3 billion.

According to the Centre for Regulatory Industries, unmeasured water bills — the majority of bills covering those households not on meters — have risen more than 77 per cent across England and Wales since the ten largest companies were sold in 1989 and joined the 19 smaller private companies already in commercial hands. Within that band of price rises, some regions, including Anglian, South West, Folkestone and North Surrey, have seen



their bills more than double. In a naturally monopolistic industry price controls are all the more crucial to deliver the customer benefits that competition might be expected to produce.

Increasing prices in water have been excused by the regulatory guidelines and by the companies as a means to fund the large amounts of investment

The decision is a recognition that last summer's shortages in supply had got out of hand

needed to maintain the network, and to produce water at the higher standards now dictated by Europe. Critics have argued, however, that investment generally is the domain of investors and that customers are being asked to fund capital expenditure without the rewards they would expect if they were investors. Along with pressure from Labour and consumer groups, who have pressed for tougher compensation penalties for poor service, the water industry will face further scrutiny this year when the Commons Public Accounts Committee reviews the performance of the regulators.

The all-party committee will question all the utility regulators on the back of a critical report from the National Audit Office, the public-sector watchdog. Political scrutiny in this

government will precede a greater shake-up of the regulatory process if Labour wins the next election.

Mr Byatt, whose review of the pricing controls ahead of the scheduled date had been largely expected although its timing has been a surprise, is also seeking to exert tougher control over water supply, amid an increasing trend towards consolidation of water businesses and links with other utilities.

The merging of water companies — at present being proposed by Severn Trent and Wessex Water for South West Water; already achieved by the Lyonnaise des Eaux takeover of Northumbrian Water — removes comparators by which the

regulator can determine pricing frameworks. The merging of water companies with electricity businesses, which has now produced three multi-utilities, further hampers the transparency of operations.

Mr Byatt, who has condemned such amalgamations on many occasions unless they can deliver sufficient customer benefits, is keen to fire warning shots to the effect that if companies can produce cost efficiencies by mergers they can also serve up

customer benefits through price constraint. The reference in the announcement of the new review that Mr Byatt will be looking closely at the ability of the companies to maintain supplies and control leakage is a clear signal to the companies that they have three years — the date of the new review — in which to improve their performance to the customers. It is also a recognition that the shortages in supply of last summer had got out of hand. He is stipulating that if savings are made in the companies then a substantial amount must be ploughed back into investment.

Mr Byatt's demands on the privatised water industry characterise the dichotomy of commercial public services. They are driven by pressure from the City to produce short-term results in the form of dividends and profit increases, while the long-term needs of water provision demands consistent and plentiful investment. Water, its critics would say, has proved notoriously short-term. The regulator needs to act to stop flagrant short-termism before the industry is further damaged in terms of its ability to do its job and supply water.

After all, it is debatable whether hosepipes are indeed a household luxury. Without decisive action the laughable advice of Severn Trent to gardeners suffering from hosepipe bans to pave over their lawns may not seem quite so risible in future.

BUSINESS LETTERS

More British Gas tales of billing errors, delays and cut-off threats

From Mr R. A. Turner

Sir, My gas bill, although dated August 2, was actually delivered during the last week of August. Despite the meter having been read it was based on an excessive estimate. The red reminder arrived within a week, to be followed, on September 12, by a threatening letter, backdated to September 6, allegedly giving me seven days from that date to pay or be cut off.

I found to my surprise that the local Gas showroom had closed and my attempts to contact British Gas at every telephone number I could find (surprisingly few) proved unsuccessful.

On September 12 I read my meter, recalculated the bill and sent it with details of my calculations, my cheque and a letter of complaint.

I am not too surprised that no reply was forthcoming but I have received a new bill confirming my calculation.

However, it included a further 42 days' standing charge (to September 13 instead of August 2), and curiously makes no mention of any payment being received. I will not pay the balance until I receive the next quarter's bill! Yours faithfully, R. A. TURNER, 23 Owen Gardens, Woodford Green, Essex.

Truth or despair?

From Mr Alan Robinson

Sir, In the light of the recent British Gas "new computerised" billing debacle how can Stuart Beadle (Business Letters, October 8) be sure his "new computerised communications system" is telling him (and us) the truth? Yours faithfully, ALAN ROBINSON, Old Orchard, 25a Aylesbury Road, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

Don't hinder Britain's successful utilities

From Mr Tom Derry

Sir, It seems there needs to be a major readjustment in thinking on the privatised utilities — particularly concerning British Gas and British Telecom, which have become major international players and companies of which the British can be proud in pulling profits successfully into this country. Regulation should only go so far in producing competition and not crush the viability in the world arena and, indeed, in this country.

Labour has recognised the potential of BT and we should hope this partnership continues. BT, especially, provides a good service and has managed to produce some large profits, despite hefty regulation. We are not ashamed of other British companies whose accounts are firmly in the black.

Let us not hinder success stories too much. Yours faithfully, TOM DERRY, 2 Park Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, SW11.

Leak from Lloyd's is welcome after traumas

From Mr Allan F. Hepburn

Sir, I really must take issue with Mr Robert Hiscov's letter (Business Letters, October 8), in which he implies that if the news about the bonus to be paid to the chairman of Lloyd's had not been leaked by a member of Council we would be totally unaware of the fact until such time as Lloyd's chooses to announce it publicly, for ratification at

next year's Lloyd's AGM, for example.

Why the need for secrecy in the interim? Surely after the horrendous traumas at Lloyd's over the last ten years, there is a need for total transparency in these matters?

Frankly, I am very glad that there is a "mole" on the Council of Lloyd's! Yours faithfully, ALLAN F. HEPBURN, 57 Pier House, 31 Cheyne Walk, SW3.

Extension of Docklands Light Railway

From Mr Neil Sprinks

Sir, I welcome unreservedly the Docklands Light Railway extension to Lewisham, announced in your business section ("DLR link goes ahead", September 28).

However, I thought it strange that, in addition to mentioning journey times from Lewisham to Canary Wharf (a great improvement

over present travel), you mention a journey time from Lewisham to the City of 30 minutes: South Eastern Trains, ex-BR, already get you from Lewisham to Cannon Street in as little as 12 minutes!

Yours faithfully, NEIL SPRINKS, 2 Raglan Close, Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan.

Alternative urban sources are saving money, Susan Pape finds

Firms tap into underground supply

Water source trials are being conducted by Coca-Cola & Cadbury Schweppes Beverages through a well recently sunk at its factory site in Wakefield, west Yorkshire. If the trials are successful, the drinks group will consider the operational and commercial benefit of abstracting underground water for some of its production.

After two long, hot summers and an exceptionally dry winter, drought is an ever-present threat. Even as winter approaches, rainfall levels are reported to be the second-lowest in 200 years. Reservoirs are not as full as they should be and hosepipe bans still affect some areas. Increasing numbers of businesses are looking at alternative means of water supply and for many of them — like Coca-Cola & Schweppes — the answer could lie beneath their feet.

According to David Lerner, of the department of civil and environmental engineering, at the University of Bradford, millions of gallons of untapped water are trapped under the streets of Britain's towns and cities in aquifers. Tapping into such a supply would not only cost companies a fraction of what they pay for mains water, but would mean never having to suffer drought restrictions. "Groundwater under cities is a valuable resource that is not being fully utilised," Professor Lerner said.

It was a different matter at the turn of the century when the local industry in cities like Bradford took its private water supply from boreholes. "But the practice went out of fashion as factories closed, and the privatised water companies came into being. Boreholes were simply covered up, lost or forgotten," he said. Now Professor Lerner believes that companies facing further drought restrictions are looking once more for possible supplies underground.

Allied Colloids, the chemical manufacturer, found it was sitting on untapped reserves and sunk its first borehole in 1967. It now has three in use on the 50-acre site in Yorkshire, supplying 277,000 cubic metres of borehole water a year — about 30 per cent of its total



Steve Smith says Abbey National does not face restrictions in a drought

needs. Although there is a treatment, handling and management cost, the company reckons to save an average of £150,000 a year. Mike Beecher, environmental services manager, said the water contained more dissolved salts than the public supply, but was suitable for use in cooling and cleaning processes.

"You have visions of a nice little well with a drawstring and bucket — but it's not like that at all. In fact, you wouldn't notice the boreholes if you didn't know where to look," he said. "The water is pumped up to a discrete 12in hole and

fed along enclosed pipework to our treatment plant."

At Abbey National's head office in Baker Street, London, an underground spring discovered 50 years ago supplies all the building's water needs. Just over five million gallons a year are pumped to the surface and put to a variety of uses that include drinking and catering. Abbey National reckons to save about £15,000 a year by using its own supply at Baker Street. Steve Smith, building facilities controller, said spring water tasted better than mains. "And we don't

face restrictions in a drought," he said. Organisations wishing to drill for water must apply to the Environment Agency for a licence. Getting one is not a foregone conclusion. Much depends on the local geology and whether water is available — and in what quantity. John Aldrick, a groundwater protection principal at the EA, said the difficulty was knowing how much water was available. "We know there's a lot but it's almost impossible to put a figure on it and we are concerned about having large numbers of big users taking water from a small area. It would be like everyone draining the same bucket," he said.

However, Michael Price, a hydrogeologist at the University of Reading, believes there is a plentiful supply. "There is far more in the ground than there is in all the lakes and reservoirs put together," he said. "I'd like to see more efficient use made of it in conjunction with other water sources, but engineers like reservoirs — although they are expensive to build they are easy to understand. An aquifer doesn't cost you anything, but it is a more difficult concept."

"However if climate changes are going to bring wetter winters, and drier summers are predicted, water storage becomes very important. I would say that aquifers are the perfect storage places — and they are generally underneath towns and cities."

Professor Lerner's studies have taken him to Nottingham where unused groundwater levels are so high that flooding is a risk, a problem that also threatens some London basements, and to Merseyside, where underground water levels, kept down in the past by extensive use, are now rising.

"As we become more aware of pollution risks from sewage and industry, there is a tendency to abandon use of this resource. But this leads to groundwater levels rising and causing geotechnical problems," he said. The hazards could be reduced by using the water for industrial purposes. "Making full use of urban groundwater is surely a sound part in the development of the sustainable city."

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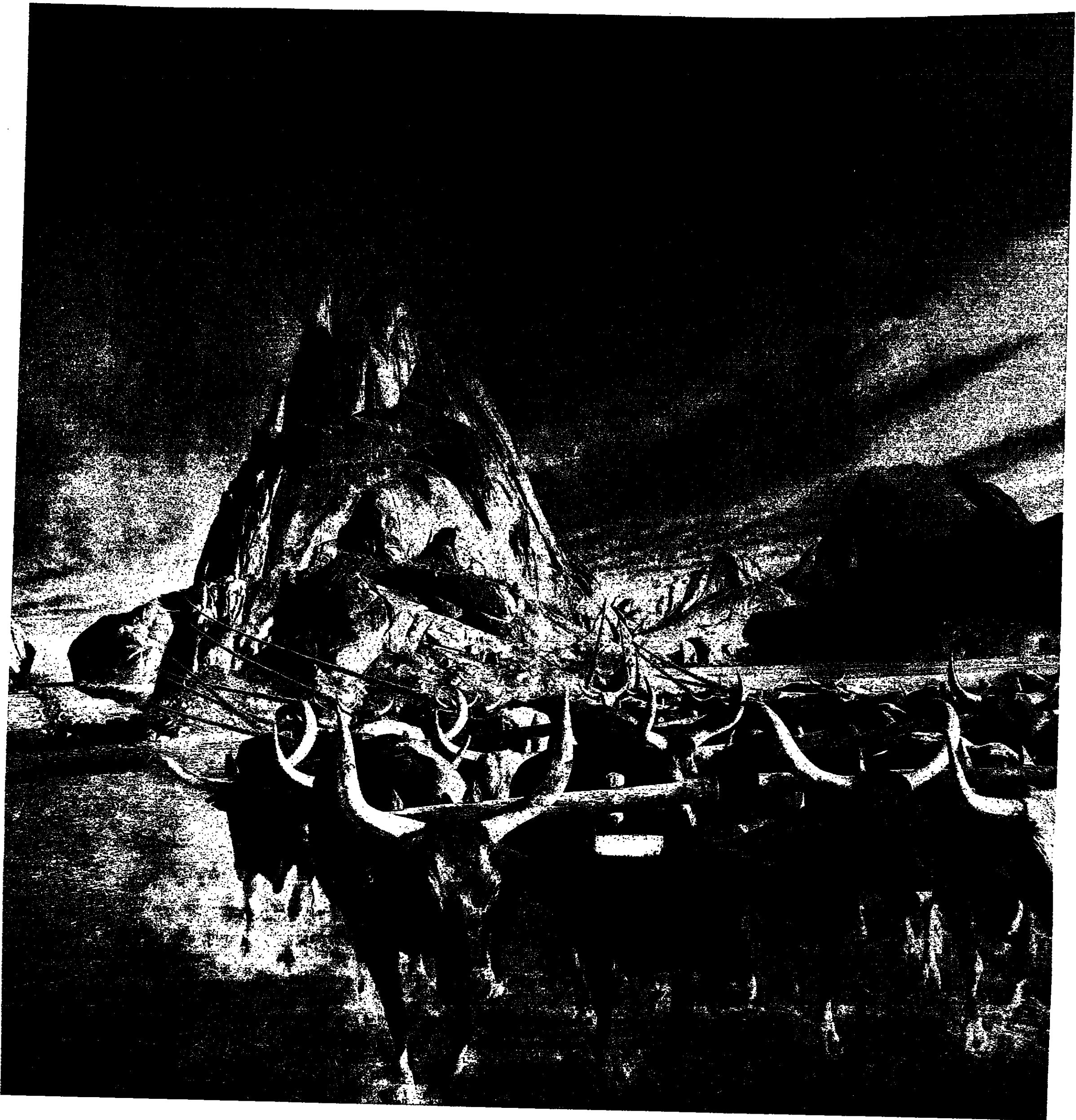
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INSURANCE • BANKING • INVESTMENTS

Equities extend their gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change
Alco	1.12	+0.01
Bev	1.10	+0.01
Br	1.08	+0.01
Br	1.05	+0.01
Br	1.02	+0.01
Br	1.00	+0.01
Br	0.98	+0.01
Br	0.95	+0.01
Br	0.92	+0.01
Br	0.90	+0.01
Br	0.88	+0.01

BANKS

Company	Price	Change
Bank	1.12	+0.01
Bank	1.10	+0.01
Bank	1.08	+0.01
Bank	1.05	+0.01
Bank	1.02	+0.01
Bank	1.00	+0.01
Bank	0.98	+0.01
Bank	0.95	+0.01
Bank	0.92	+0.01
Bank	0.90	+0.01

BREWERY, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	Change
Brew	1.12	+0.01
Brew	1.10	+0.01
Brew	1.08	+0.01
Brew	1.05	+0.01
Brew	1.02	+0.01
Brew	1.00	+0.01
Brew	0.98	+0.01
Brew	0.95	+0.01
Brew	0.92	+0.01
Brew	0.90	+0.01

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Company	Price	Change
Build	1.12	+0.01
Build	1.10	+0.01
Build	1.08	+0.01
Build	1.05	+0.01
Build	1.02	+0.01
Build	1.00	+0.01
Build	0.98	+0.01
Build	0.95	+0.01
Build	0.92	+0.01
Build	0.90	+0.01

BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	Change
Build	1.12	+0.01
Build	1.10	+0.01
Build	1.08	+0.01
Build	1.05	+0.01
Build	1.02	+0.01
Build	1.00	+0.01
Build	0.98	+0.01
Build	0.95	+0.01
Build	0.92	+0.01
Build	0.90	+0.01

CHEMICALS

Company	Price	Change
Chem	1.12	+0.01
Chem	1.10	+0.01
Chem	1.08	+0.01
Chem	1.05	+0.01
Chem	1.02	+0.01
Chem	1.00	+0.01
Chem	0.98	+0.01
Chem	0.95	+0.01
Chem	0.92	+0.01
Chem	0.90	+0.01

DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	Change
Distr	1.12	+0.01
Distr	1.10	+0.01
Distr	1.08	+0.01
Distr	1.05	+0.01
Distr	1.02	+0.01
Distr	1.00	+0.01
Distr	0.98	+0.01
Distr	0.95	+0.01
Distr	0.92	+0.01
Distr	0.90	+0.01

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Company	Price	Change
Diver	1.12	+0.01
Diver	1.10	+0.01
Diver	1.08	+0.01
Diver	1.05	+0.01
Diver	1.02	+0.01
Diver	1.00	+0.01
Diver	0.98	+0.01
Diver	0.95	+0.01
Diver	0.92	+0.01
Diver	0.90	+0.01

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Change
Elect	1.12	+0.01
Elect	1.10	+0.01
Elect	1.08	+0.01
Elect	1.05	+0.01
Elect	1.02	+0.01
Elect	1.00	+0.01
Elect	0.98	+0.01
Elect	0.95	+0.01
Elect	0.92	+0.01
Elect	0.90	+0.01

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Company	Price	Change
Elect	1.12	+0.01
Elect	1.10	+0.01
Elect	1.08	+0.01
Elect	1.05	+0.01
Elect	1.02	+0.01
Elect	1.00	+0.01
Elect	0.98	+0.01
Elect	0.95	+0.01
Elect	0.92	+0.01
Elect	0.90	+0.01

ENGINEERING

Company	Price	Change
Engin	1.12	+0.01
Engin	1.10	+0.01
Engin	1.08	+0.01
Engin	1.05	+0.01
Engin	1.02	+0.01
Engin	1.00	+0.01
Engin	0.98	+0.01
Engin	0.95	+0.01
Engin	0.92	+0.01
Engin	0.90	+0.01

ENGINEERING

Company	Price	Change
Engin	1.12	+0.01
Engin	1.10	+0.01
Engin	1.08	+0.01
Engin	1.05	+0.01
Engin	1.02	+0.01
Engin	1.00	+0.01
Engin	0.98	+0.01
Engin	0.95	+0.01
Engin	0.92	+0.01
Engin	0.90	+0.01

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change
Insur	1.12	+0.01
Insur	1.10	+0.01
Insur	1.08	+0.01
Insur	1.05	+0.01
Insur	1.02	+0.01
Insur	1.00	+0.01
Insur	0.98	+0.01
Insur	0.95	+0.01
Insur	0.92	+0.01
Insur	0.90	+0.01

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Company	Price	Change
Engin	1.12	+0.01
Engin	1.10	+0.01
Engin	1.08	+0.01
Engin	1.05	+0.01
Engin	1.02	+0.01
Engin	1.00	+0.01
Engin	0.98	+0.01
Engin	0.95	+0.01
Engin	0.92	+0.01
Engin	0.90	+0.01

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	Change
Food	1.12	+0.01
Food	1.10	+0.01
Food	1.08	+0.01
Food	1.05	+0.01
Food	1.02	+0.01
Food	1.00	+0.01
Food	0.98	+0.01
Food	0.95	+0.01
Food	0.92	+0.01
Food	0.90	+0.01

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Company	Price	Change
House	1.12	+0.01
House	1.10	+0.01
House	1.08	+0.01
House	1.05	+0.01
House	1.02	+0.01
House	1.00	+0.01
House	0.98	+0.01
House	0.95	+0.01
House	0.92	+0.01
House	0.90	+0.01

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change
Insur	1.12	+0.01
Insur	1.10	+0.01
Insur	1.08	+0.01
Insur	1.05	+0.01
Insur	1.02	+0.01
Insur	1.00	+0.01
Insur	0.98	+0.01
Insur	0.95	+0.01
Insur	0.92	+0.01
Insur	0.90	+0.01

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change
Insur	1.12	+0.01
Insur	1.10	+0.01
Insur	1.08	+0.01
Insur	1.05	+0.01
Insur	1.02	+0.01
Insur	1.00	+0.01
Insur	0.98	+0.01
Insur	0.95	+0.01
Insur	0.92	+0.01
Insur	0.90	+0.01

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change
Invest	1.12	+0.01
Invest	1.10	+0.01
Invest	1.08	+0.01
Invest	1.05	+0.01
Invest	1.02	+0.01
Invest	1.00	+0.01
Invest	0.98	+0.01
Invest	0.95	+0.01
Invest	0.92	+0.01
Invest	0.90	+0.01

LEISURE & HOTELS

Company	Price	Change
Leis	1.12	+0.01
Leis	1.10	+0.01
Leis	1.08	+0.01
Leis	1.05	+0.01
Leis	1.02	+0.01
Leis	1.00	+0.01
Leis	0.98	+0.01
Leis	0.95	+0.01
Leis	0.92	+0.01
Leis	0.90	+0.01

MINING

Company	Price	Change
Mine	1.12	+0.01
Mine	1.10	+0.01
Mine	1.08	+0.01
Mine	1.05	+0.01
Mine	1.02	+0.01
Mine	1.00	+0.01
Mine	0.98	+0.01
Mine	0.95	+0.01
Mine	0.92	+0.01
Mine	0.90	+0.01

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change
Prop	1.12	+0.01
Prop	1.10	+0.01
Prop	1.08	+0.01
Prop	1.05	+0.01
Prop	1.02	+0.01
Prop	1.00	+0.01
Prop	0.98	+0.01
Prop	0.95	+0.01
Prop	0.92	+0.01
Prop	0.90	+0.01

RETAILERS, FOOD

Company	Price	Change
Retail	1.12	+0.01
Retail	1.10	+0.01
Retail	1.08	+0.01
Retail	1.05	+0.01
Retail	1.02	+0.01
Retail	1.00	+0.01
Retail	0.98	+0.01
Retail	0.95	+0.01
Retail	0.92	+0.01
Retail	0.90	+0.01

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Company	Price	Change
Retail	1.12	+0.01
Retail	1.10	+0.01
Retail	1.08	+0.01
Retail	1.05	+0.01
Retail	1.02	+0.01
Retail	1.00	+0.01
Retail	0.98	+0.01
Retail	0.95	+0.01
Retail	0.92	+0.01
Retail	0.90	+0.01

WATER

Company	Price	Change
Water	1.12	+0.01
Water	1.10	+0.01
Water	1.08	+0.01
Water	1.05	+0.01
Water	1.02	+0.01
Water	1.00	+0.01
Water	0.98	+0.01
Water	0.95	+0.01
Water	0.92	+0.01
Water	0.90	+0.01

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change
Alco	1.12	+0.01
Alco	1.10	+0.01
Alco	1.08	+0.01
Alco	1.05	+0.01
Alco	1.02	+0.01
Alco	1.00	+0.01
Alco	0.98	+0.01
Alco	0.95	+0.01
Alco	0.92	+0.01
Alco	0.90	+0.01

BANKS

Company	Price	Change
Bank	1.12	+0.01
Bank	1.10	+0.01
Bank	1.08	+0.01
Bank	1.05	+0.01
Bank	1.02	+0.01
Bank	1.00	+0.01
Bank	0.98	+0.01
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BREWERY, PUBS & REST

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Brew	1.10	+0.01
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Brew	1.02	+0.01
Brew	1.00	+0.01
Brew	0.98	+0.01
Brew	0.95	+0.01
Brew	0.92	+0.01
Brew	0.90	+0.01

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Company	Price	Change
Build	1.12	+0.01
Build	1.10	+0.01
Build	1.08	+0.01
Build	1.05	+0.01
Build	1.02	+0.01
Build	1.00	+0.01
Build	0.98	+0.01
Build	0.95	+0.01
Build	0.92	+0.01
Build	0.90	+0.01

BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	Change
Build	1.12	+0.01
Build	1.10	+0.01
Build	1.08	+0.01
Build	1.05	+0.01
Build	1.02	+0.01
Build	1.00	+0.01
Build	0.98	+0.01
Build	0.95	+0.01
Build	0.92	+0.01
Build	0.90	+0.01

CHEMICALS

Company	Price	Change
Chem	1.12	+0.01
Chem	1.10	+0.01
Chem	1.08	+0.01
Chem	1.05	+0.01
Chem	1.02	+0.01
Chem	1.00	+0.01
Chem	0.98	+0.01
Chem	0.95	+0.01
Chem	0.92	+0.01
Chem	0.90	+0.01

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Company	Price	Change
Diver	1.12	+0.01
Diver	1.10	+0.01
Diver	1.08	+0.01
Diver	1.05	+0.01
Diver	1.02	+0.01
Diver	1.00	+0.01
Diver	0.98	+0.01
Diver	0.95	+0.01
Diver	0.92	+0.01
Diver	0.90	+0.01

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST FUND OF AMERICA

[illegible]

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																																																																																																																
Population (millions)	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.9	12.0	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.8	12.9	13.0	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.8	13.9	14.0	14.1	14.2	14.3	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.0	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.6	15.7	15.8	15.9	16.0	16.1	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.5	16.6	16.7	16.8	16.9	17.0	17.1	17.2	17.3	17.4	17.5	17.6	17.7	17.8	17.9	18.0	18.1	18.2	18.3	18.4	18.5	18.6	18.7	18.8	18.9	19.0	19.1	19.2	19.3	19.4	19.5	19.6	19.7	19.8	19.9	20.0	20.1	20.2	20.3	20.4	20.5	20.6	20.7	20.8	20.9	21.0	21.1	21.2	21.3	21.4	21.5	21.6	21.7	21.8	21.9	22.0	22.1	22.2	22.3	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.7	22.8	22.9	23.0	23.1	23.2	23.3	23.4	23.5	23.6	23.7	23.8	23.9	24.0	24.1	24.2	24.3	24.4	24.5	24.6	24.7	24.8	24.9	25.0	25.1	25.2	25.3	25.4	25.5	25.6	25.7	25.8	25.9	26.0	26.1	26.2	26.3	26.4	26.5	26.6	26.7	26.8	26.9	27.0	27.1	27.2	27.3	27.4	27.5	27.6	27.7	27.8	27.9	28.0	28.1	28.2	28.3	28.4	28.5	28.6	28.7	28.8	28.9	29.0	29.1	29.2	29.3	29.4	29.5	29.6	29.7	29.8	29.9	30.0	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.4	30.5	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.9	31.0	31.1	31.2	31.3	31.4



SENIOR SECRETARIES/PA OPPORTUNITIES WEST END AND CITY

DTZ Debenham Thorpe is Europe's leading firm of international Property Advisers. We currently have 2 vacancies in the Investment and Financial Services Division (Ref: T097 and T121). Both vacancies involve a wide range of functions. Your initiative when dealing with clients will be of paramount importance. The directors are in need of a "true right hand", and both need a self-motivated PA who will understand their every move and be able to represent them confidently on a daily basis.

We are also looking for an outstanding PA to cover maternity leave. Working for the Company Secretary based in the West End, you will be required to provide an efficient support service in a very busy and varied position. As well as the usual secretarial duties you will deal with company benefits including BUPA and pensions. A confidential and sensitive approach is a must. Previous experience within personnel or a similar environment would be an advantage. (Ref: T123/KA).

For all of the above positions an excellent working knowledge of WPS1 and WordPerfect 6.1 is essential along with good shorthand skills.

We offer a competitive remuneration package, including interest free STL, BUPA and Permanent Health Insurance.

Apply in writing including full CV and quoting relevant reference number to: Maureen Albert, Assistant Personnel Officer, 44 Brook Street, London W1A 4AG. Deadline for applications: Monday 21st October 1996. (No Agencies).

DTZ Debenham Thorpe
International Property Advisers

MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB requires Secretary/PA to the Assistant Secretary (Administration)

The above position is available at Lord's Cricket Ground. Applicants must have experience of Word for Windows 6 and competent in shorthand. Must have ability to work on own initiative. It would be beneficial if applicants had an interest in cricket.

Salary according to experience. Apply in writing with recent curriculum vitae to:

The Secretary (MRB)
Marylebone Cricket Club
Lord's Ground
London NW5 8QN

SECRETARY/PA TO CHAIRMAN SALARY CIRCA £23,500

A professional, motivated and well-presented P.A. required for a small company in the finance sector. Must be able to work on own initiative yet be a team player.

Excellent organisational, administrative and secretarial skills (100/60 Wpm) are essential. Good working knowledge of W4W and Microsoft Office. Flexibility, reliability, efficiency, sense of humour and friendly personality are key requirements for this senior position. Please apply in writing together with CV to Box No 9351

TEAM SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

c.£16,000 AAE

Tekture are major distributors of wallcoverings to architects and designers within the hotel and office sectors, and due to recent expansion, we are now looking for an experienced team secretary and administrator to support our busy managerial and sales teams.

This is an exciting and varied role, requiring self confidence to deal with changing priorities in a pressured environment. Working as part of our friendly professional team, you will be a 'self starter' with a flexible approach, excellent secretarial (min 55wpm) and organisational skills. Experience of Lotus and Ampro, but also some knowledge of Wordperfect and Microsoft is desirable.

Please reply in handwriting, enclosing your CV, to the Sales Support Manager, Tekture Ltd, 4-10 Rodney St, London N1 9JL.

SOUTH COAST PA/SECRETARY TO M.D c.£20k package

The MD of an established thriving medium sized financial services company may shortly require an experienced PA/Secretary.

You will probably be in your early 30's and must be of smart appearance, well spoken, educated to 'A' level standard (esp. English & Maths) at least and proficient in the skilled and creative use of DTP. Shorthand and fast accurate typing are also essential.

You will occupy your own office and be required to develop a secondary role, so experience in Marketing/PR/Personnel or as a Social Secretary would be an advantage.

Your flexible package can include a company car and use of a luxury apartment, pending relocation if required. Please Reply to Box No 9470

REGAN AND DEAN + ADLAND CONFERENCE ORGANISERS Receptionist £17,000

Prestigious SW1 Company needs an attractive, professional receptionist, who is immaculately presented with an excellent speaking voice and plenty of confidence to meet and greet high profile clients in a friendly, but dynamic environment.

63 South Molton Street London W1Y 1HH
Tel: 0171 409 3244 Fax: 0171 409 7430

PA/Secretary Battersea £18,000k Team Secretary £1 Temp to Perm £17,000k

PA with excellent communication skills, energetic, and good sense of humour for varied role including Home of Lords and Curry work. W4W plus shorthand/typing required. Tel: 0171 409 3244

Team Secretary £1 Temp to Perm £17,000k Advertising department in Media Environment require a team player for 50/50 Administration/Typing role. WPS Windows, Secretarial and Shorthand/typing required. Contact Melaine Taylor or Marian Barker on 0171 242 1183 Fax 0171 409 3242



THOMSON Departmental Secretary £14-16,000

Thomson Tour Operations, the UK's No. 1 tour operator, is currently seeking a highly organised secretary for their UK Personnel department.

Providing full support to the UK Personnel Manager and Personnel Advisors you will be involved in all aspects of this busy personnel function. Central to this department is the area of recruitment, and you will be responsible for issuing offer letters and contracts, arranging interviews and dealing with telephone queries. Other duties will include maintaining personnel records and producing monthly reports and ad hoc correspondence.

Organised, flexible and thorough; these are the key qualities we are seeking for this position. Balancing a varied and demanding workload, you will work well both independently and as part of this lively team. Excellent interpersonal skills should be combined with 3 years' secretarial experience, possibly spent in a personnel environment. A typing speed of 65wpm and a sound knowledge of Word and Excel are essential. Above all, you will respect the need for complete confidentiality and discretion in this role.

Please write, with full CV to our consultants, MSL Advertising Services Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL.



ING BARINGS Corporate Finance Team Secretaries

We are seeking experienced team secretaries to work in our busy Corporate Finance department providing secretarial support within a team environment. The positions have a high copy typing content and applicants must have excellent and accurate PC skills (MS Word 6 and Powerpoint).

We require secretaries who are able to work effectively under pressure and to deadlines and who are prepared to be flexible regarding working hours. Banking, Finance or Legal experience is preferred. We offer a competitive salary, overtime and benefits.

To apply, please write enclosing a curriculum vitae, including details of current remuneration to: Anne Hurst, Human Resources, ING Barings, 60 London Wall, London, EC2M 5TQ.

SECRETARY, WC1

Professional firm of Quantity Surveyors requires bright secretary to join two other ladies in busy friendly office. Accurate typing of Word for Windows, Version 6 (50 wpm) is a necessity. A confident telephone manner and understanding of computer operating systems, Excel and databases would be an advantage.

Please fax or post your CV to: Mrs J. Rhee/Hrs J. Conington-Cook, Monro White Hutton & Partners, 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 3DZ. Tel: 0171 837 9001 Fax: 0171 404 0469

JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH Independent Estate Agents seeks the following staff:

Full time secretary to work in Battersea assisting with valuations, surveys and commercial property work. Some experience preferred, excellent WP skills and phone manner essential.

Full time secretary to work in Fulham, dealing with residential sales and lettings. Enthusiasm and reliability as important as WP. Salaries by negotiation.

Please fax CV to Judy on 0171 924 1691.

FOXTONS PROPERTY NEGS/SEC

TRAINED PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR
Join the leading real estate company in London. You will be responsible for the sale of properties in the City and West End. You will be a self-starter, motivated, and have a proven track record in sales. Salary £12,000 - £15,000 per annum. Tel: 0171 373 5533

EXPERIENCED PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR
Four years in an independent property agency, ideally in the City or West End. You will be responsible for the sale of properties. Salary £12,000 - £15,000 per annum. Tel: 0171 373 5533

PARTNER PA/ MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR to 20k

An enthusiastic PA is sought by an award winning architectural practice. You will have excellent secretarial skills, with DTP and database experience and the ability to organise marketing activity and manage a library of publicity material.

If you are a self starter with the potential to grow the company's marketing further, please write with full career and salary details to: Carolyn Ritchie, Hunt Thompson Associates, 70 Parkway, London NW1 7PP.

RELOCATION MANAGER

We are a leading company of relocation planning consultants, organising business moves for a portfolio of high profile clients.

We need to supplement our team by the appointment of co-ordinators to support our account managers, working on a variety of client-based projects.

If you meet the following criteria and would like to join a small but effective team please apply in writing with details of current salary by 14th October latest.

- keyboard & administrative skills
- knowledge of Windows/Excel
- £15-30
- able to travel
- able to work at weekends with time off in lieu
- driving licence

Attractive salary and career opportunity for the right applicants. Reply to: MovePlan Limited, 30 Emerson's Close, 35-37 Parkgate Road, London SW11 4NP

SECRETARY ADMINISTRATOR

Smart efficient hardworking person for small Financial Co. in WC2. Duties include: Reception, Typing/Admin/Reception must have Windows 95+ Excel Minimum 2 yrs experience. Salary £15,000 A.A.E. Fax CV to: 0171 930 8755

FRESH CHALLENGE

If you are confident with your skills, well presented, personable and looking for a career move into property, look no further. Foxtons require a property secretary to work in young, hectic environment, as a team secretary to the sales negotiators, preparing property details & typing general correspondence. Must live in Central London. Salary up to £15k. Tel: 0171 373 5533.

Career Opportunities

PA/Secretaries £16,000 package

Excellent 2nd jobs with flexible and hardworking attitudes are required for a large and dynamic City based firm. If you have the desire to progress and are seeking recognition for your efforts, you will be rewarded with training and opportunities at every level of your career. You must have solid secretarial skills of 50wpm, W4W, Excel and 1 other with a minimum of 1 year relevant work experience. Take control of the next step in your career.

MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES
THE RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS
Call Meridian on 0171 409 1331 or fax your cv on 0171 487 3018

Docklands £18-24,000 + Banking Benefits

Our client who is a major player within global investment needs experienced banking PA's in the following areas:

Investment Banking - German lang £20K
Analysts - presentations, £20K
Director of Corporate Finance \$0/60,
20K M.D., Merchant Banking £22-24K

0171 493 2888

HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

Knightbridge Media Co-Director's PA £17-18k + bonus
Would suit temp sec looking for promotion and more responsibility in a young company.

Professional receptionists £12-18k
Many opportunities for all levels of exp experience in West End companies incl. Fashion, Retail and Media.

CALL AMANDA OR JACQUA ON 0171 485 2827

Travel & Leisure Powerpoint PA's £19k
Guaranteed fun and discounted travel opps for the skilled PA/Sec who really knows Powerpoint and Microsoft.

Careers in Customer Service across the world! £14k
Learn how to manage a 5* Business Central For customer service people with good PC skills and 'front line' personality.

CAL MARIE-THERESE OR AMANDA ON 0171 240 3515

IRVINE INTERNATIONAL WHERE QUALITY REALLY COUNTS

BANKING SECRETARIES

We supply high-calibre secretaries to the biggest names in the City and we are now filling more temporary and permanent vacancies for candidates with excellent skills and banking experience than ever before!

If you are looking for a rewarding temporary position paying up to £10 per hour or permanent position paying £14-20K per annum, we would like to hear from you. Financial experience, fast typing (60wpm) and Windows knowledge essential.

Please call either Lisa Bloomfield or Annabel Bingham on 0171 377 9919 to discuss.

RECRUITMENT

TO BAHAMAS YEAR CONTRACT
Perfect for top PA with no ties who would enjoy a 24 hour a day total immersion job, living / working / travelling with wealthy businessman and his family. Excellent sec / PA experience and Spanish required. Start date ASAP. Salary £250k tax free (all living expenses paid). Please send CV to Chrissy Watson, Tale Appointments, 70-71 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DE

HOBSTONES DTP Secretaries Urgently Required Superb Salaries and Benefits

We currently have a number of challenging opportunities for DTP secretaries who wish to use their creative talent to prepare presentation documents and design corporate literature. If you are looking for a position which combines 80% DTP work and with 20% secretarial duties and have knowledge of two of the following software packages Word for Windows, Powerpoint, Excel, Freelance, PageMaker or CorelDraw, please call Maggie to arrange an immediate interview. 0171 437 6032.

FLUENT FRENCH

Two superb opportunities exist with market leading Company rapidly expanding in Europe. One is at very senior level and requires either mother-tongue or translation standard French (approx 28k). The other is a 50/50 admin/sec role working solely for one Director (20-28k). Excellent benefits package applies.

For more information on either role please call: 0171 377 5500 or fax: 0171 377 5599

CROSS SELECTION

To £23k PA in PR
A rare opportunity for an experienced PA with Senior Level experience to join this renowned International PR Consultancy. Enjoy a support role combining client contact and general company policy/operations. Age 28-40.

Tel: 0171 629 8862 Fax: 0171 408 0861

HODGE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



PA £21k + BENS
Immediate opportunity for experienced shorthand secretary to work on a 1-1 basis for director of International Co. 80 wpm ab. W4W, Excel & Powerpoint.

DTP SECRETARIES £18k + OT
Leading management consultancy is looking for director level secretaries with graphics skills. Lively, busy environment. Lots of involvement and team work. 60wpm and ability to work overtime.

EVENTS SECRETARY £17,000
Fantastic opportunity for an experienced secretary to move into the exciting world of events/project co-ordination. Previous experience an advantage. 50 wpm typing a must. Caravel Consultancy (see com) 0171 240 2833 fax: 0171 240 7300.

POWERPOINT WHIZZ £19,000 + GREAT PERKS

Blue Chip Company based in W1 requires a highly computer literate Secretary, 25-40, to join young, friendly team handling international affairs. Lots of presentation work, total involvement. Fast audio and copy typing. You should have a flexible approach, and excellent presentation, both self and work. A1 telephone manner, able to prioritise, proactive and good sense of humour. Call Elaine or fax CV to:

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7283 Fax: 0171 491 2887

Marketing Secretary for Solicitors £19,000 + Bonus + Bens
An experienced Marketing Secretary is needed to be responsible for the organisation of events and conferences, updating databases, research projects, corporate gifts and press releases. Accurate and fast WP skills are essential. Tel: 0171 493 0457 Fax: 0171 493 0467 Verity Appointments

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£27,000 Executive PA for Investment Banker with heavy personal workload. Able to work as part of a team and inspire confidence in a happy, relaxed atmosphere. Skills 100/70

£22,000 Capable, hard-working senior PA with flawless eye for detail for multinational Communications Manager dealing in sponsorship and motor sports. Skills 90/75

4 Ganton Street, London W1
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 487 4031

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16 1996

Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

West End... West End... West End... West End...

Free Gym
£20,000
Fab Bens

If you're not intimidated by a room full of tall, sporty graduates, this company is the place for you. Your energy, drive and enthusiasm will equip you to meet the challenge of working in this successful and dynamic environment. A-Level education, 50 wpm typing and computer literacy essential. Please call Sue.

Board Games
£28,000
Age 28 - 38

One off opportunity to work for an exciting media company co-ordinating their board meetings worldwide. This is a high pressure, front line role that will suit a highly organised, incredibly diplomatic individual. Conference organising experience within a corporate environment at board level is a must. Please call Sonia.

Charity
£18,000
Regents Park

Do you want to help young people to succeed? Use your expertise in charities to organise a Director in this fun and rewarding environment. Initiative is required to run your own projects whilst handling day to day matters. Finance experience desirable. 90/60, Word and Excel. Please call Suzanne.

TV
£25,000
Director's PA

Communication is crucial to this role as well as the confidence to deal with a wide range of queries from editorial to analysis on market trends. You must ensure the Director's day runs smoothly in this high pressure environment with a flexible, good humoured approach. 80/60 wpm. Please call Andrea.

High Profile
£23,000 + Bens

Fantastic opportunity exists for a front-line secretary to join this progressive team of European Bankers. You will spend 80% of your day in a 1:1 PA role, and the rest assisting five demanding but fun executives. Lots of scope, client liaison and presentation work. Skills: 50 wpm/Windows. Please call Amanda.

Graduate Opportunity
£20,000 + Bens

This is an opportunity for a bright graduate with a secretarial skills to join a top investment house. Working with an impressive, committed team you will get fully involved in the running of the department and have the opportunity to learn about banking. Excellent career prospects. Age 20-28. Skills: 45 wpm typing, shorthand ideal. Please call Kathy.

Trading Floor
£19,000 + Bens

Director and team require a self-motivated professional secretary for a varied and involving role on this busy trading floor. Extensive client contact and scope to use your organisational flair. Great opportunity for someone to carve a career in banking. Skills: 50 wpm typing, W4W and Excel. Age: 25-35. Please call Vanessa.

DTP/Admin Secretary
£23,000 Pkg

A large American bank needs an energetic secretary to join a young, dynamic and sociable team. Playing an essential role in a busy area you will be producing presentations, handling telephone work, arranging meetings plus general team administration. If you have large company experience, good W4W, Excel and PowerPoint then... Please call Gill.

Telephone: 0171-434 4512 Fax: 0171-437 9239

Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

Telephone: 0171-390 7000 Fax: 0171-390 2997

Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

ASTLEY WHARTON DAVIS
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

CHELSEA £17,000 + (negotiable)
MEDICAL ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY
(Benefits include BUPA, Interest Free STL, Restaurant & Pension)

Intervenor specialist recruitment in Chelsea requires an administrative secretary to assist a Senior Director in a busy, fast-paced environment. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role, preferably in a medical or pharmaceutical environment. The role involves a high level of organisation, attention to detail and the ability to handle a large volume of correspondence. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Director's office, including the management of the Director's diary, travel arrangements, and the preparation of reports and presentations. The role also involves a high level of confidentiality and discretion. The successful candidate will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and will have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role, preferably in a medical or pharmaceutical environment. The role involves a high level of organisation, attention to detail and the ability to handle a large volume of correspondence. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Director's office, including the management of the Director's diary, travel arrangements, and the preparation of reports and presentations. The role also involves a high level of confidentiality and discretion. The successful candidate will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and will have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role, preferably in a medical or pharmaceutical environment.

Please call Sarah Cartwright on Tel: 0171 378 0394 or Fax: 0171 378 3449 To discuss this opportunity in a friendly and confidential manner.

ASTLEY WHARTON DAVIS
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

Top International P.R. Co.
Head PA - Covent Garden
£20,000 (Plus Excellent Benefits)

Our client requires Head PA to work in this very exciting, dynamic department. Responsible to the MD you will be doing a senior level and will be expected to take on a high level of responsibility. The role involves a high level of organisation, attention to detail and the ability to handle a large volume of correspondence. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Director's office, including the management of the Director's diary, travel arrangements, and the preparation of reports and presentations. The role also involves a high level of confidentiality and discretion. The successful candidate will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and will have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role, preferably in a medical or pharmaceutical environment.

Please call Sarah Cartwright on Tel: 0171 378 0394 or Fax: 0171 378 3449 To discuss this opportunity in a friendly and confidential manner.

PA
WITH ITALIAN OR GERMAN

£20,000 + MS + EXC BENS

I have several exciting opportunities for secretaries with a foreign language to work in the Investment Banking division of one of London's leading Banks. The roles are to work at senior Director level and will involve arranging client meetings, management of correspondence and international liaison. IMMEDIATE INTERVIEWS.

Please contact Melinda Marks
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

CITY 1:1

£19,500 + MS + BENS

Liaise extensively with clients, arrange meetings, reconcile expenses, organise complicated travel plans... These are just a few of the duties involved in this varied PA/Secretarial role working for a Director of a leading Investment Bank. The ideal candidate will be aged 25-30 with a banking background. IMMEDIATE INTERVIEWS.

Please contact Melinda Marks
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

EXECUTIVE PA

£25,000 + MS + 5 Wks Hols

An extremely high profile PA position incorporating liaison with senior management, organising corporate hospitality and preparing business development material for client presentations. The ideal candidate will come from a banking background, have advanced Microsoft Office experience, shorthand skills and be used to working at senior level.

Please contact Margaret Sorohan
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

West End Temps Secretaries
up to £10 per hour

We're certainly having an Indian Summer! It's hotter than July at Crone Corkill with lots of bookings coming in every day. You could be enjoying the warmth that comes from being a valued member of Crone Corkill's busy temp team as well as earning Air Miles for a break in the real sun. If you have good secretarial skills and experience you could be earning top rates working with our highly reputable client base - including many blue chip companies. Telephone the Temporary division now on 0171 434 4512. You could be working for Crone Corkill tomorrow.

Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

TOP NOTCH SALES PROFESSIONAL
CITY

Use your organisational and interpersonal skills to help the City of London to grow its business. The role involves a high level of organisation, attention to detail and the ability to handle a large volume of correspondence. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Director's office, including the management of the Director's diary, travel arrangements, and the preparation of reports and presentations. The role also involves a high level of confidentiality and discretion. The successful candidate will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and will have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role, preferably in a medical or pharmaceutical environment.

Call 0171 377 6777 Fax 0171 377 5079

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
£25,000 - £30,000

A very special opportunity exists for a highly motivated and experienced Personal Assistant to work for a leading international company. The role involves a high level of organisation, attention to detail and the ability to handle a large volume of correspondence. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Director's office, including the management of the Director's diary, travel arrangements, and the preparation of reports and presentations. The role also involves a high level of confidentiality and discretion. The successful candidate will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and will have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role, preferably in a medical or pharmaceutical environment.

Call 0171 287 2044 Fax 0171 287 3717

BOOK ASSISTANT
£19,500 + MS + BENS

Book Assistant for a leading international company. The role involves a high level of organisation, attention to detail and the ability to handle a large volume of correspondence. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Director's office, including the management of the Director's diary, travel arrangements, and the preparation of reports and presentations. The role also involves a high level of confidentiality and discretion. The successful candidate will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and will have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role, preferably in a medical or pharmaceutical environment.

Call 0171 287 2044 Fax 0171 287 3717

ALL THINGS TO BOTH MEN!
£18,000 + Bens

This multi-faceted role involves a high level of organisation, attention to detail and the ability to handle a large volume of correspondence. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Director's office, including the management of the Director's diary, travel arrangements, and the preparation of reports and presentations. The role also involves a high level of confidentiality and discretion. The successful candidate will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and will have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role, preferably in a medical or pharmaceutical environment.

Call 0171 377 6777 Fax 0171 377 5079

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MUSIC 1

A string quartet setting of Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* receives its British premiere next month...



MUSIC 2

... and in the same festival of American music, unknown works by Frank Zappa are also aired

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC 3

Richard Hickox presides over a forward-looking 25th anniversary party for the orchestra he began



FAST RISING

Straight out of school, straight into the West End: two teenagers on the thespian road

A Howl for all seasons

Allen Ginsberg's poetry interpreted by a string quartet?
Nigel Williamson reports

When the Kronos Quartet made its debut at New York's Carnegie Hall with Allen Ginsberg in 1994, the poet got very excited at the prospect of uttering four-letter words in that revered house of culture. "He was right. That's what it's all about," says David Harrington, the leader of the quartet, which for 23 years has been at the forefront of contemporary music, commissioning and performing some of the most challenging music of our time.

Harrington did not mean that either Ginsberg or the Kronos Quartet seeks to shock out of a mindless desire to outrage. He is far too purposeful for that. Shock, he believes, is a vital weapon in art, a device to break down barriers and destroy stultifying convention. "I don't subscribe to the idea that quartets consist of two violins, a viola and a cello playing in some cloister on a Sunday afternoon," he says. "That's not the music I know, whether it's Beethoven, Haydn or anything else. I have spent my career trying to bring the world we know into this medium called music."

One noted American critic has still never forgiven the quartet for following a performance of Berg's *Lyric Suite* with a medley of television theme tunes. "He cannot listen to anything we do since that — and it was 15 years ago. We did it to make the event memorable, so I suppose we succeeded on one level."

Ginsberg has always had a similarly iconoclastic attitude. The American poet once said of his best-known work, *Howl*, that he had set out to write a poem "so strong that a clean Saxon four-letter word might enter high-school anthologies permanently and deflate tendencies to authoritarian strong-arming."

He succeeded, and next month an extraordinary collaboration of the iconoclasts, in which the Kronos Quartet commissioned the composer Lee Hyla to set *Howl* to music, receives its British premiere at the Festival Hall. It will be the climax of a month-long festival called *American Independents* that began on the South Bank this week (see box).

So why is a musical setting of a poem published 40 years ago the highlight of a programme showcasing contemporary America? Harrington has no doubt. "As time goes on, *Howl* gets larger in its scope. Ginsberg described the poem as an emotional time bomb, and it is still going off continually. There are so many images that have been made indelibly printed on the American psyche that it is part of the American experience. And it is still relevant."

Ginsberg's nightmare vision of American society, which encapsulated the Beat philosophy, has continued to strike a chord with every new rebellious generation. Hyla, who set it to music, was one year old when Ginsberg wrote the 25-minute-long poem. Members of the Kronos Quartet were not much older. Yet the result of their collaboration is stunning, disturbing and beautiful at the same time. "I wanted music that chal-



Iconoclasts united: the Kronos Quartet and (front) Allen Ginsberg have collaborated on a musical setting of *Howl*

lenged the words, that didn't necessarily put the poem on the back, but was arguing with it," says Harrington.

Ginsberg was coaxed into reading his greatest poem in a studio for the first time. Hyla's complicated score, with its elaborate timings which have the quartet cuing off rhythms and speech in the text, had to be adapted during the recording as Ginsberg contributed to the process. "As a poet, he is like a performing musician," says Harrington. "You can feel his centre of energy. It was like playing a quintet with a master saxophone player, except that Allen's voice was the fifth instrument."

The Kronos Quartet has just released the studio recording of *Howl* on an album of highly political material, right down to the tattered and torn American flag by Robert Mapplethorpe on the cover. Uniquely for the quartet, throughout the album the words enjoy equal status with the music. Also included are the chilling voice of former FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, with music by Michael Daugherty, some found poetry in the inscriptions by

hobos on a fence-post 50 years ago in a composition by Harry Partch, and Scott Johnson's setting of the voice of L.F. Stone, the great liberal commentator. "It never started out as an album," Harrington says. "We commissioned the works over five years and it only became clear much later that there was a larger sense of geometry to those pieces. Hoover had secret files on Ginsberg and L.F. Stone."

Harrington and the Kronos Quartet are relentless promoters, patrons and performers of contemporary music, sound junkies forever seeking new composers. There are currently 45 new works under commission and one sometimes wonders whether serious modern composition could even survive without Kronos.

Driving Harrington is his perfectionism. A quest for "the musical equivalent of Einstein looking for the theory that said everything. I would like to find an album that in this confined amount of time explains it all. To me, that is the challenge." In his search, Harrington has left few musical avenues

unexplored. The composers currently writing for Kronos come from every part of the world. Even as *The Times* interviewed him over breakfast, Harrington was enthusing about contacting a new composer in Russia whom he had been told about after the previous night's concert.

One of the quartet's most successful albums was *Pieces of Africa*, featuring compositions from Morocco, Uganda, South Africa, The Gambia

and Sudan. While painters such as Modigliani and Picasso absorbed African influences, Harrington says it is "shameful" that Western musicians for so long ignored the continent's music. "Can you imagine what it would have been like if Beethoven had heard music from Zimbabwe, how different musical culture might have been?"

● The Kronos Quartet are at the Festival Hall on Nov 19. *Howl* USA is available on Nonesuch

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
ADAM CHALK, DANIEL PIRRIE

Age: Chalk (left) is 18. Pirrie is 19.

Profession: Actors.

Appearing in: *Never The Sinner* at the Arts Theatre in Covent Garden from tomorrow.

Aren't they a bit young for the West End? Indeed, but they are sickeningly mature and well-adjusted. They have both just left school, as has the production. John Logan's 1985 courtroom drama *Never The Sinner* was staged by King's College School, Wimbledon, to celebrate its centenary. The production then scored a great hit on the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. The boys' acting was described as "staggeringly good".

They must be jolly nervous. "I'm not too nervous," says Pirrie. "Edinburgh was a great preparation. I had never done any lead acting before and I remember at the dress rehearsal I was hopeless, but it eventually went well. 'I go very quiet and feel ill,' says Chalk. "And my nerves go sky-high."

So are they bonal luvvies? Far from it — they even wear jackets and ties for interviews. Being sensible lads they are going to get degrees first. Pirrie is to read English at Cambridge, and Chalk is going to Newcastle to read politics and East Asian studies. "A degree would be a good insurance policy," says Chalk. "I want three years of living the student life," says Pirrie. "After that it will be full steam ahead." "I'm a bit more cautious than you, Daniel," says Chalk.

They sound like a double act: To an extent. "We've been friends for eight years, and we're going travelling to the Far East and Australia during our year off."

Their schoolfriends must be seething with jealousy. "Everyone's been really happy for us and they are sharing in our success — they're coming from as far away as Newcastle to watch us. But nothing changes — we still go out to pubs in Wimbledon. It's not as if we're huge stars." Yet.

Are they similar to the characters they play? Adam: "I'm a bit more happy-go-lucky than mine — he's obsessive and has no time for those he considers his inferiors. I'm pretty different." Daniel: "My character is a charmer and a womaniser. I wouldn't say that I was too far from that."

GUY WALTERS

CONCERTS: Richard Hickox conducts an eclectic weekend of new works

Here is the new from London

THE NEXT three concerts by the City of London Sinfonia feature Beethoven, Schumann, Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach and Handel. Its members could be forgiven, then, for looking less than relaxed with free improvisation during their twenty-fifth anniversary weekend at the Barbican. *Playing in the New*. But it is an open-minded, flexible team, and if the programme lacked high radical ambition, Richard Hickox engendered a quiet sense of exploration. The

composers — Diana Burrell, Priti Paintal, Minna Keal, Judith Weir, John Tavener, Barry Guy and Peter Maxwell Davies — form an eclectic line-up, sharing only an amiable approach to performers.

One disappointment was Judith Weir's *Two Human Hymns*: the crafty metaphysical conceits of George Herbert and Henry King surely demand more than loveliness from their music.

But if there was little to assault the ears, there were opportunities to revisit familiar sounds in new ways: the eerie wail of a French horn keening off key beside sitar and Chinese dulcimer in Paintal's semi-improvisatory *Blowing the Fuse*; two women's voices high and dry above the turbulent cross-currents of Maxwell Davies's virtuosic *Westerlings* (performed by the Joyful Company of Singers); and the glorious rough edge



Richard Hickox: showing "a quiet sense of exploration"

provided by ratcheting wood-block and flutter-tongued cor anglais to Diana Burrell's voluptuous song cycle *Dunkelhvide Mønstre*. Burrell, the orchestra's composer-in-association, has set two impassioned poems by the Dane Tove Ditlevsen for con-

tralto, using the cor anglais to reveal the violence behind the poet's death wish, wrapped up as it is in seductive imagery.

Simon Spear's *New Ribbons*, selected from the CLS/Society for the Promotion of New Music's workshop, provided a festive concert overture with real rhythmic vitality.

Bassist and composer Barry Guy is a force of nature. Always on the edge of anarchy, at his best he can pack chaos into concrete structures to make exquisite music. His hugely demanding *Concerto for Orchestra, Fallingwater*, reveals both his wildness and his ability to master it, but the CLS has not yet found a balance between the two.

Still, this was a weekend for "playing in" the new in all senses. Some of these premieres deserve further warming-up.

HELEN WALLACE

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FILM
Tough and ready: actor Ian Hart has risen fast by playing a succession of memorable cameos



THEATRE 1
David Mamet's early play, *The Woods*, receives its belated first British staging

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2
Less lust, more laughs: George Cole leads a politically correct revival of *Lock Up Your Daughters*



TOMORROW
Keven Costner in *Tin Cup* and all the other new movies read Geoff Brown's review

Life's a screen for action man

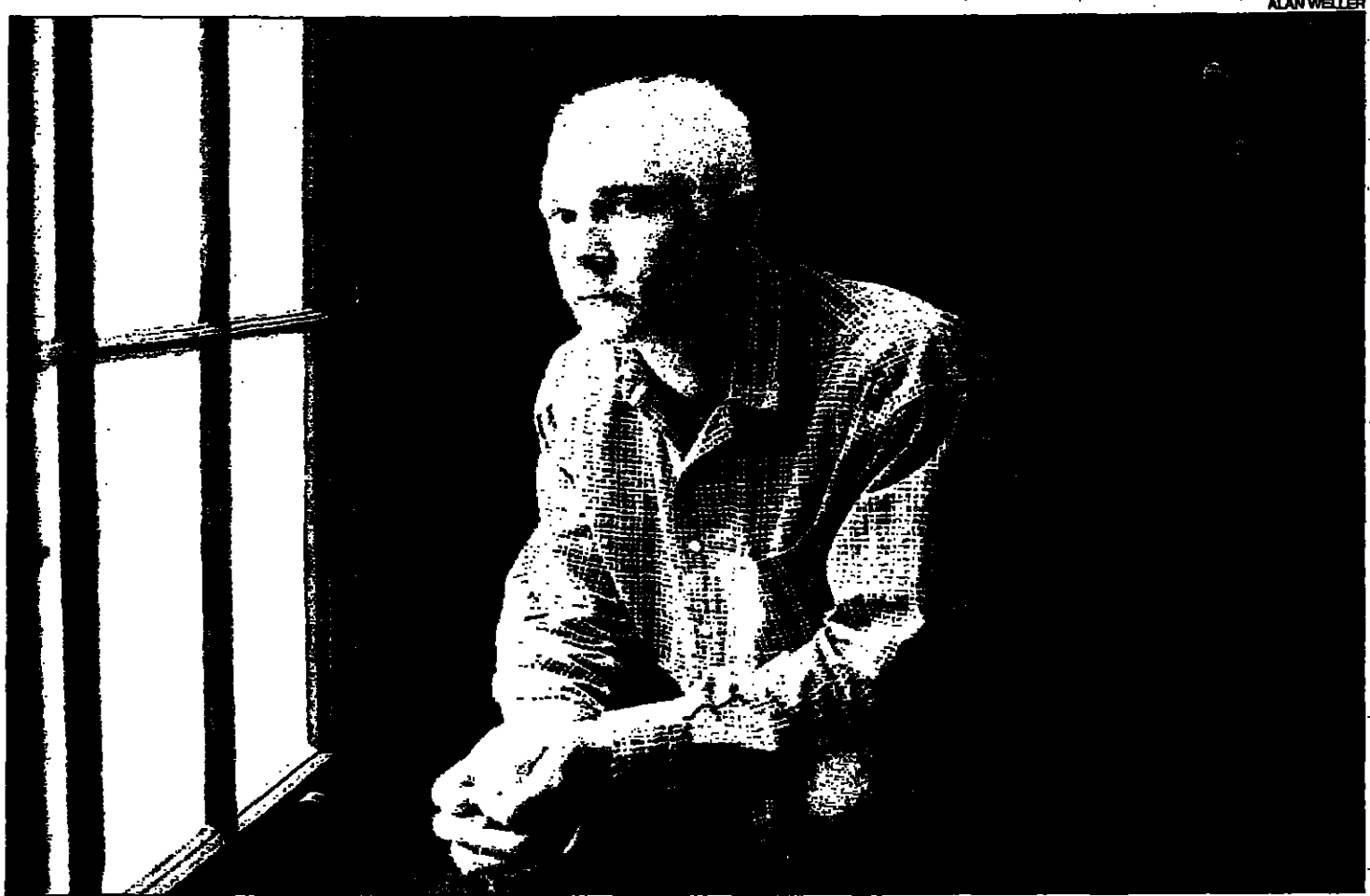
CINEMA: Britain's busiest young actor finds time to talk to Carol Allen

For an actor in a country where comparatively few films are made, Ian Hart seems to be in a remarkable number of them. Last year we saw him as the young schoolteacher in *Clockwork Orange*, as a shell-shocked First World War survivor in *The Englishman who went up a hill but came down a mountain*, and playing the hero of Ken Loach's Spanish Civil War drama, *Land and Freedom*. A few weeks ago he was seen in *The Hollow Reed*; this week he opens in Thaddeus O'Sullivan's Northern Ireland drama *Nothing Personal*; and next month he pops up in another Irish subject, Neil Jordan's *Michael Collins*, in which Hart plays Collins's loyal aide Joe O'Reilly. Since work on the latter ended, the actor has completed roles in five other films and starts work on another later this month.

Not all those roles, though, Hart is quick to point out, are leads. His normally brown hair, currently closely cropped and dyed blond, is the result of a three-day stint he has just done in Cumbria on Michael Radford's film *B Monkey*. "I've only got two scenes, playing a villain who gets shot in the leg and then in the head," Hart explains. "But there's something different about him, so it's enjoyable to do."

Nothing Personal finished filming early last year. Later, at the Venice Film Festival, Hart was named Best Supporting Actor for his role as the psychopathic Ginger, one of a gang of three loyalist thugs whose murderous fortunes are followed through a Belfast day and a night in 1975. The film was shot in Dublin, but Hart and the other actors researched their roles in the pubs and clubs of Belfast. What particularly struck Hart was the sheer ordinariness of the real-life counterparts to his character.

"You see these people dotted around the pub, looking no different



No rest for the wicked: Ian Hart has dyed his hair blond to play another villain in Michael Radford's *B Monkey* — "it's enjoyable to do"

from anybody else and they're four-time murderers who've just done 15 years. People like Ginger don't live in derelict houses wearing ski masks all day long. They go to the pub, they have families, they go home to tea with the wife and kids. I based him on the bullies I knew at school."

Hart was born 32 years ago in Liverpool and brought up on "a very early council estate in the middle of nowhere. My Dad worked in Ford's car factory in Halewood, and my mum worked in the kitchens at a school run by the nuns. Everything was run by nuns where we lived."

"I was a super Catholic in those days. I was an altar boy, I went to Rome, to Lourdes twice, was always

in the Legion of Mary, but by the time I got to about 12 I was beginning to rebel, because you couldn't debate something with a nun or a priest. I couldn't wait to get out of it, it was very repressive."

Hart discovered his liking for theatre through a youth drama group at the age of 15. That led to a part in a television series and eventually, after much banging on the door, work at the Liverpool Playhouse. Although he still retains his Liverpool accent, he now lives in Crouch End in north London with his girlfriend, and although he is currently much in demand, like most actors he remembers the time and a half years he spent "resting",

which is maybe why he is willing to accept cameo roles as well as leads.

Hart was a small boy in Liverpool in the 1960s, when the Beatles were in their heyday, and although he bears little resemblance to John Lennon, he has played him twice on film: in Chris Munch's *The Hours and the Times*, which dealt with the relationship between Lennon and Brian Epstein, and in *Backbeat*, which was the film that got Hart noticed. But it was no big deal to play the Liverpool hero.

"When I was a teenager, DJs were still going on about how they and John once did so and so together, and I was thinking, 'When I was eight years old, you were saying

that. I'm 15 now, and you're still saying it. Will you stop it, please.' Like all young people, we wanted to find something that was ours."

Hart is now about to start work in London on *Mojo*, the film of Jez Butterworth's funny and brash tale of rival gangs in 1950s Soho. It is based on Butterworth's hit play, which is being revived this week at the Duke of York's Theatre, the Royal Court's new West End base.

"Jez has written the screenplay and is directing it. I play Mickey. I wanted to do something substantial and this was the best thing I'd read for ages."

Nothing Personal opens in Britain on Friday

MUSICAL: A Fifties frolic revived

Safe sex for the Nineties

Lock Up Your Daughters
Chichester

BACK IN 1959, when the Macmillan Government still had several years to go before it was engulfed in sexual scandals, a version of this play-with-music delighted the town for months. Perhaps it was a juster version, because the Henry Fielding play on which Bernard Miles based his text is titled *Rape Upon Rape* and the hero, a rake named Randle, is said to have bedded 17 women in six days. I suspect some PC editing has trimmed his cockiness to fit contemporary taste.

The result is that a collection of overlapping affairs now looks too mild to be provoking, yet not witty enough to survive on its other merits. Chief of these should have been the wicked behaviour of Mr Justice Squeezum, who bribes juries to find innocent persons guilty if they have refused to bribe him to secure their release. The role requires exaggerated seedy villainy, but George Cole plays it almost straight, not exactly like an honest man, but sinned against rather than sinning.

The show would be nothing without the lyrics. Lionel Bart provided for Laurie Johnson's pleasantly melodic music. They are Fifties lyrics of the same school as *The Boy*

Friend, *Salad Days*, his own *Fings Ain't Wat They Used To Be* and *Oliver!*, delighting in adroit rhymes, rapid phrasing and opportunities for musical pastiche. Stephen Rayne's production could have allowed for repeats of almost every one of them, particularly *There's A Plot Afoot*, where the entire cast mulls around and between one another, wielding fars and masks on sticks, finally separating into two tight groups, the rakes on one side, the daughters (some now advanced in years) on the other.

Everything Sheila Hancock's Mrs Squeezum sings is certainly worth an encore, whether asking for the ravishing to begin, instructing us in seduction or balefully triumphing over her fallen spouse. With her breath expiring on sexually crucial words, and her limbs doing the same at sexually crucial suggestions, her comedy lifts a show that seldom provides much of a thrill in her absence.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MARILYN HICKMILL



Edited cockiness: George Cole and Sheila Hancock

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GLASGOW
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Oct 28-29, Nov 4-5
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SCARBOROUGH
Stephen Joseph Theatre
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Birmingham Rep Theatre
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● SAVE £2 on the top two prices (normally £12.50, £14.50) for Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Tel 0121-236 4455

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Playhouse
Oct 22-25
● TICKETS £8 to £10 (normally £10.50 to £12) to see Shakespeare's comedy, *The Merchant of Venice*. Tel 01722 320333

MANCHESTER
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THEATRE: Two London openings

Stormy thicket

The Woods
Finborough Arms,
SW10

WHEN applied to a playwright's work, the innocent adjective "early" is often code for not nearly as good as the famous stuff. Written in 1977, *The Woods* is relatively "early" David Mamet. For the first 20 minutes of Robert Shaw's production, the play's first British outing, you would be hard pressed to imagine anything earlier.

The action takes place on the wooden patio of a cabin in North American woodland, and in the first section it consists mostly of Nick caressing the legs of Ruth, the young woman he has invited to stay. You might be familiar with the Mamet of *Glenview Glen* Ross or *House of Cards*, those sharp studies of urban America. But where in this more basic environment is the sardonic scribe who revels in the brutalities of everyday exchanges?

The middle section begins with Nick walking on to the patio saying "I washed up". At least that's what it sounded

ANDY LAVENDER

Spa-ing partners

What the Heart
Feels
Orange Tree
Richmond

AT LAST: Leamington Spa has what Iceland got centuries ago, a saga of its own. That is the pleasantly sedate town Stephen Bill apparently had in mind when he launched into a play that brings 18 performers on to the tiny Orange Tree stage and spans the years from 1982 to 1995. For those of us who had suspected that nothing much happened to anybody in Leamington during that time, this is an impressive achievement.

It is also a modestly enjoyable one. Bill himself claims that the play is "about a group of people who would love to move on but don't know where to go". Certainly several characters end up in less good nick than at the start. The friendliest of them turns to drink after his marriage breaks up. Another's business seems near collapse. Principles are abandoned, ideals get compromised, and the dream of arts centre looks likely to become, at best, a funhouse for tourists.

At first the themes are change, decay, disillusion and the hypocrisies of the liberal well-to-do. But the second act

brings a new emphasis. Julie Peasgood's housewife Anne rebels against the many who have taken her good nature for granted, starting with her smug solicitor husband, Paul Shelley's Peter. She decides to uproot and move to France, an idea Leamington Spa mistrusts. Sadly, Leamington is right.

Perhaps because Bill tries to deal with a good few lives, the play has an unfocused feel and the characterisation has no great depth. Yet with Carol Nimmons, Stuart Fox and others giving strong, clear performances, Sam Walters's production moves briskly along and always held my attention — something I never expected Leamington to do.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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THE TIMES

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■ You will need seven differently numbered tokens, six from The Times and one from The Sunday Times Style section of October 20, 1996.

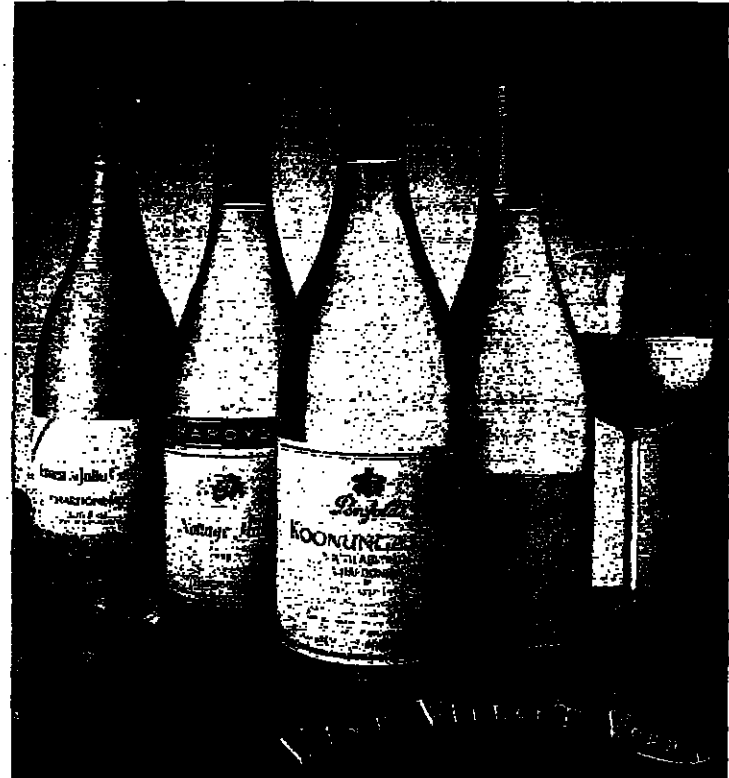
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THE TIMES
A FREE BOTTLE OF WINE AT SAINSBURY'S TOKEN 3

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CHANGING TIMES

When experience triumphs over pessimism

Speed may be cable's saviour

I went to a wedding on Saturday at which the clergyman went to great lengths to remind the radiant couple that marriage is the triumph of hope over experience.

He ought to be invited to preach to the congregation of 6,000-plus now thronging the European Cable Convention at London's Olympia. A hall full of hope: investors, operators and programmers, wandering through a shimmering maze of high-tech goodies, exuding confidence that cable's hour has come round at last. As has been expected confidently since 1981.

A couple of months ago I wrote off cable television as a phenomenon whose heyday had passed without ever having arrived.

My blithe dismissal of the vast investment — much of it North American — made in cabling Britain, was based on certain observations:

- That cable is making more money from selling telephone services than from television.
- That rich and powerful BT can easily undercut the telephone rates of new competitors.
- That cable's television competitor, BSkyB (40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*), has cornered the multi-channel market.
- That the great majority of those who want extra television channels already own or rent satellite dishes and are therefore unlikely to switch to cable.
- That BT itself is gearing to sell television, particularly movies, down the telephone line.

So where does that leave cable's Unique Selling Point?

Cable's true believers have persuaded me to think again because of three words: "the return path". The cable that brings TV into the home works in two directions — the reason why it even now provides a telephone service. This link can be used for shopping and banking from home and all those other digital delights we read about.

Pure speed may prove to be cable's unmatchable attraction. In my pessimism, I had forgotten (so easy to do, isn't it?) the Internet. Most of us now use, in our tentative, clumsy and largely unsuccessful attempts to dip into the Net, an ordinary telephone line connected to a modem. You wait and wait for the damned thing to deliver to the screen the information you seek.

BT, for a price, offers a much faster connection (called ISDN) to digital services than the standard telephone line. But cable's digital home line — also for an extra fee and the installation of the appropriate modem — can do the same in a flash.

To retrieve (I can't bring myself to say

"download") a complex picture from the Internet over a standard telephone line, I'm told, takes 18.5 minutes. An ISDN line takes 4.8 minutes, cable just four seconds. What this lightning delivery will mean for delivering films on demand, let alone data in large quantities, is obvious.

But will a fast track onto the Internet draw cable subscribers in the still-elusive multi-millions? It seems more likely that for years to come the business user will remain the main customer for cable's interactive wares.

Cable as a form of television does have unique features of its own: cable-only channels unobtainable with a satellite dish. In my Videotron area, the 72 available channels include such cable-exclusive options as the Parliamentary Channel, Rai Uno, the Mirror Group's Live TV and Associated Newspapers' Channel One



BRENDA MADDOX

(which tomorrow launches its local television service for Liverpool).

Cable's capacity for virtually unlimited channel capacity will come into its own with the advent of digital television, which promises channels by the hundreds. Right now many cable systems are full to bursting with minimal appeal to draw in new subscribers.

Cable's optimism is based on more than soaring telephone income. In September Ofel, the telecommunications watchdog, cracked down on BT in answer to complaints that some BT employees had been bad-mouthing cable's telephone service to potential customers.

In July, the Office of Fair Trading wrung a promise from BSkyB not to offer any more new channels to cable systems in the form called "bundling", the form in which BSkyB permits cable operators to offer the Disney Channel only to those willing to subscribe to two pay-TV movie channels as well. For its part, the Independent Television Commission is investigating whether even the Disney bundle will be allowed to remain intact.

One thing cable will never offer: the satellite porn, aka, "flood of foreign filth", that so troubles Virginia Bottomley and the *Daily Mail*. Satellites, with their moveable dishes and alterable decoder cards, will always be able to outwit Britain's censors. Not so cable. It is a local pipe, installed under licence. Nothing will be allowed in that the licensor does not like.

Cable may well pull up close to its rivals. But only if it enjoys continued regulatory vigilance. Such is the aversion these days to even quasi-monopolies that, change of government or not, it will probably get it.

In one door and out the other

IF MARILYN Warnick ever decides to write a book about her life in newspapers, her recent stint on *The Daily Telegraph* will barely register a paragraph.

Staff at Canary Wharf are still trying to work out whether she has just completed one of the briefest periods of employment in *Telegraph* history.

Ms Warnick, a respected books editor, was thrilled when she was hired earlier this month to take charge of buying the serial rights to any suitable blockbuster the paper could snap up. On her first day she was dispatched to the Frankfurt Book Fair to scout about for new titles. She was mildly surprised to find Paul Woolenden, the *Telegraph's* marketing guru, doing much the same.

Undaunted, Ms Warnick busily set about making con-



Martin Dunn, left, and Sir David English

tact with publishers and agents, urging them to do business with *The Telegraph*. But her new job came to a shuddering halt when an embarrassed Sue Ryan, the news editor, phoned Germany to say: "Er, sorry, we can't hire you after all."

According to insiders, Ms Warnick's sacking was not personal and they suspect raging internal politics are to blame. "Marilyn was hired on Monday and fired on Thursday. It was like something out of a French farce," one said. "Even by *Telegraph* standards that has to be a record."



STAFF at Associated Newspapers have noticed a spooky thing about Martin Dunn, the new golden boy of Northcliffe House. They detect something familiar about the silver hair, the bold spectacles, the pleasantly rounded face...

Dunn, recently lured from his job as Editor of the *New York Daily News* to oversee Associated's new media and cable television operations, is, staff say, starting to bear an uncanny resemblance to his close friend and mentor, Sir David English. It was apparently the prospect of

working with Sir David that convinced Dunn to make the move back to Britain. "Martin seems to be growing into a Sir David clone," a source said. "Are they by any chance related? I think we should be told."

Chocoloholics?

AS GRANADA prepares to launch four episodes of *Coronation Street* next month, the admen at Cadbury are making contingency plans. The company fears viewers may become bored by the animated chocolate *Coronation Street* figures that appear four times during each programme.

"When the *Street* goes four times a week that will be 16 times they see them," said an insider. "We are going to have to think up a new sequence."

Royal mints

JUST when the Royal Family thought it had laid to rest the ghost of *Panorama*, another television documentary is threatening to send more skeletons hurtling out of the cupboard. This time the subject is more minor royals who allegedly capitalise on their status to make a living.

The documentary is being made for Carlton's *The Big*

Story by the independent company 20:20 Television. "We are also looking at the children of the royals," said a source.

However, he denied a nasty rumour that the Duchess of York was not included because she would require a documentary all of her own.

MOST people who are trying to forge a career in television are grateful for any publicity. Not Sophie Anderson, the 19-year-old face of the Gossard underwear adverts. She believes newspapers should have to pay for the privilege of promoting her new Channel 4 show.

Ms Anderson, who appears half-naked in Gossard posters beneath the headline "Who says a woman can't get pleasure out of something soft", presents a fashion programme, *De-sic*. Television publicists have been offering interviews and photo shoots to get the show in the news. But fashion editors have been astonished to receive follow-up calls from Ms Anderson's model agency Elite, demanding £2,000 plus 20 per cent commission for the honour.

"Sophie is a professional," said a snooty aide. "You must treat her as you would Claudia Schiffer."

Wrangler tries for a better market fit

WRANGLER Jeans is taking drastic action to halt the indomitable march of its main rival, Levi's, in Britain. The company is on the brink of awarding its challenging pan-European advertising business to a UK agency.

The brief, say insiders, is not to "do a Levi's" with the Seventies brand. "Levi's do that too well, so there's no point trying to beat them," said an adman who has been shortlisted.

Levi's has a 15.5 per cent share of the UK jeans market compared with Wrangler's 6.5 per cent share. Parallels are being drawn with what was a similarly tough job for Adidas, another previously market-leading Seventies brand, in the face of increasing opposition from Nike.

Wrangler's advertising task will be tricky but it could be easier if they got the jeans right first. A better fit maybe?

The advertising world is increasingly concerned over the distressing new

ADVERTISING

tendency among marketing directors to call pitches and then switch jobs halfway through, leaving agencies high and dry.

A review for BAA's advertising business has just been set back by the departure of Claire Hewitt, the BAA marketing director, who has left the shortlisted agencies wondering what happens next.

Agencies on the recent Mastercard pitchlist suffered the same fate when George Strachan, the marketing director, invited a handful to pitch for its account and then resigned. The incumbent agency was reappointed to the business as if the review had never been called.

Given that pitching for the average-sized £5 million account sets an agency back between £15,000 to £20,000 in third-party costs, plus as

much as another £20,000 in executive time, adfolk are understandably miffed at the trend.

WHILE agencies eagerly sign up famous faces for their television commercials, GGT Advertising has assembled an enviable star-studded series of celebrities to do radio ads for *The Big Issue*, the weekly magazine sold by the homeless.

Nick Hancock, Jane Horrocks, Jack Dee, Paul Whitehouse, Eddie Izzard and Charlie Chuck have all offered their services free for a series of commercials to run on Virgin Radio from the end of the week.

The ads are the latest burst in a campaign that has already starred pop stars and personalities, from Adam Ant to Martin Clunes to Clive Anderson, Richard Branson and Mariella Frostrup.

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Walkers Crisps hope that some of Gary Lineker's popularity will rub off on product sales, while Henry Kissinger brought gravitas and novelty to *The Economist's* TV spot.

Damon Hill's Pizza Hut advertisement is in line for an industry award



Nicholas Lyndhurst was chosen by W H Smith to boost its sales



Could The Sun win it for Blair?

Labour has been wooing the tabloid Tory press since the last election, Maggie Brown reports

THE notion that newspapers, especially the largest-selling tabloids, influence voters and help to decide general elections was given a fresh airing this week when Peter Mandelson, Tony Blair's right-hand man, told Sir David Frost that he hoped *The Sun* would support Labour this time. "If *The Sun* chooses to pitch against us like the last election, we will find it difficult to win, but not impossible," he said.

He was referring to the now infamous campaign of ridicule that Britain's largest selling daily, in the final fling of Kelvin MacKenzie's editorship, heaped upon Neil Kinnock in the 1992 election, which John Major won against the odds.

The *Sun's* coverage culminated in the triumphalist headline "It's The Sun who won it", which has created a small industry of research into the links between newspapers and voting patterns but no one conclusion.

Mr Kinnock believed that the press had helped to undermine his credibility. Mr Blair's advisers, led by Alastair Campbell, the former *Daily Mirror* political editor, would seem to concur. They have spent the years in opposition wooing both the Tory mass-market tabloids and the stern moralists at the middle-market *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*.

Immediately Mr Blair became Labour leader, a signed article from him sprouted in the *News of the World*: the flow has continued as the party chart offensive seeks to convert floating Tory readers into new Labour supporters. And the wooing has had some effect. Mr Mandelson has good grounds for hope, new Labour has been listened to with some respect. Sir David English last year tantalisingly hinted that the *Mail* might just make common cause with Mr Blair.

The Labour leader's latest speech to the Common-wealth Press Union (chaired by Sir David), reassuring "family values", found a place on the *Daily Mail's* front page on Monday. Underpinning the dithering and quite evident equivocation are the uncertain fortunes of Mr Major: an appreciation of Labour's move to the central ground.

our peer Lord Hollick, the papers have edged noticeably towards the centre, shifting their political position as part of a reluctant to salvage their fortunes. In a seminal editorial in *The Express* of October 6 the paper served notice that its allegiance could change.

AT THE very least Mr Blair can expect a relatively clean election campaign from this quarter, free from the personality attacks that the Conservatives, from the "demon eyes" poster onwards, are unleashing. As *The Times* editorial noted last Saturday: "Politics seems set to become more personal in the months ahead." It will be hard for Tory spin-doctors to plant their seeds in this newly sterilised *Express* ground. Lord Hollick has insisted that its political reporting is factual.

But this is not the whole story. Tory-supporting newspapers are fickle, fair-weather friends. The *Daily Mail* devoted a page to why women find Mr Blair "smarmy". They instinctively thrill to signs of hope of a Tory revival and can almost instantly banish the reality of gloom and European schisms — for a period. But the dominant impression remains: Mr Blair can expect reasonable treatment with some punches pulled.

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Stars take over the TV breaks

Belinda Archer reports on the growing employment of actors, sports personalities and even politicians by shrewd advertisers anxious to get their message across

There is an old saying in advertising circles that if you haven't got an idea, you get a star. If this is the case, adfreak must be devoid of any real creative thought at the moment, given the unprecedented glut of celebrities appearing on our television screens.

Half an hour's viewing of any commercial TV channel is likely to feature a galaxy of star-studded advertisements. If you don't catch Mel Smith fronting Visa Delta's latest advertisements or Ruby Wax plugging the Vauxhall Corsa, you will probably see Nicholas Lyndhurst promoting W H Smith's family range of goods or Mrs Merton extolling the virtues of British Gas.

Then there is Kate Moss and John McCarthy, the former Beirut hostess, in the One 2 One mobile phone commercials, or Julie Walters spoofing celebrity TV chefs on behalf of Bisto granules. There is even Henry Kissinger, who has just been signed up to do a brief spot for *The Economist*, and that's not counting the host of celebrities busily working for BT alongside Bob Hoskins.

The advertising industry seems willing to sign up just about anybody famous, from household name actors to comedians, supermodels and sports stars who, in return for fat fees, sprinkle a little stardust on companies' otherwise possibly dreary "buy-me" messages.

But why? What is causing this explosion? Famous faces have always been used by advertising agencies but why are so many now spilling over from their programmes into our commercial breaks?

Adam Crozier, the joint chief executive of Saatchi and Saatchi, the agency behind the current Delta Visa ads, believes the diminishing shelf life of company marketing directors is a primary factor.

"Current pressures on budgets mean that the average lifespan of a

client is now 18 months. Understandably, therefore, they want to make a name for themselves, and one of the ways of doing that is to hire a star for their advertising," he says.

Another reason, according to John Webster, who as executive creative director of BMP DDB has been involved in using Rowan Atkinson in the Barclaycard ads and Gary Lineker for Walkers Crisps, is the dramatic improvement in the standard of scripts.

"In the past there have been a lot of ropey ads featuring celebrities wobbling coffee beans in their hands and saying things they wouldn't normally say. But the scripts are generally getting better — so much so that the stars are now thinking that doing an ad might actually help their careers rather than hinder them."

Indeed, some stars have declared that their advertising has brought them fame. Others are known to use their commercials on their show reels to secure new work, and it has now almost become a standard joke within celebrity circles to boast about lucrative advertising contracts.

Robert Saville, the joint creative director of GGT advertising, which has used a raft of stars from Jeff Goldblum to Paul Merton, Jack Dee and Denis Leary to front its ads, hints at another cause for the fashion.

He says: "Media is becoming increasingly expensive, so campaigns have to establish themselves quickly now or they get dropped. Celebrities make a spot work very quickly indeed. They are a media accelerator... their fame accelerates the fame of the campaign and the impact of the ad."

Celebrities have always been a useful weapon in the adman's armoury and there are perennial advantages to using them. They aid awareness levels, provide brand differentiation in crowded markets, they can jazz up a grey proposition for a grey product and help to generate useful spin-off PR — making the marketing pound stretch further.

Start also have the necessary talent, says Sholto Douglas-Horne, head of advertising for the personal

communications division of BT, a committed celebrity-using advertiser from Maureen Lipman to the ubiquitous Hoskins.

"You often simply need someone who can act, who has conviction and credibility and who can get the message across. That can't be just anyone off the street," he says.

Advertisers, however, must be wary of hiring personality frontmen. The basic problem with stars is that, being stars, they often behave like operatic prima donnas and they do not come cheap.

A famous face can cost anything from £20,000 to several hundred thousands, depending on how much you want to use them and the extent and length of their involvement with the product.

Adland is also rife with cautionary tales such as the Michael Jackson and Pepsi debacle which clearly illustrated one fundamental problem — that if you use someone famous you are hostage to their fortunes. Pepsi was forced to pull out of its commercial association with Jackson when charges were brought against him for alleged child abuse in November 1993.

him for alleged child abuse in November 1993.

A personality can also drown out the brand message and steal the limelight. A classic example of mis-managed celebrity use was the Joan Collins/Lionel Rossiter Cinzano commercial of the late Seventies. To this day, people remember the ad but have difficulty recalling whether it was Cinzano or a rival vermouth.

Andrew Robertson, managing director of Abbot Mead Vickers BBDO, the agency behind the Bob Hoskins BT commercials and recent Pizza Hut work, sums up the main disadvantage of using a personality. "The trap is that unless you think carefully about who you want to use, and how and why, you will get a lot of attention for your advertising but none for your brand or proposition."

As any commercial break suggests, however, the pitfalls of using stars are increasingly surmounted by agencies — particularly in the light of their success rates. Past recent winners of the prestigious Institute of Practitioners in Advertising effectiveness awards have included Jack Dee's ads for John Smith's bitter and Rowan Atkinson's for Barclaycard. Meanwhile, as many as four of this year's shortlisted entries feature famous faces, including Damon Hill in a spot for Pizza Hut and Ryan Giggs in a Quorn burger commercial.

Observers say the more celebrities are used, the more they will be used in the future. "Once the authors of ads see something successful, they want to compete and because there have been several good, entertaining campaigns using celebrities recently, people want to climb on that bandwagon," Webster adds.

Before long, no doubt, something else will come along to dilute the admen. Until that time, however, the client company, the agency, the celebrity and, arguably, the viewer gain from the proliferation of talent in our commercial breaks.

The courage to reach the top — and stay there

Editors of national newspapers live as precariously as the managers of Premiership football clubs. If they fail to hit sales, they are dismissed, which has been the fate of eight Fleet Street editors in the past year. Sir Richard Addis, editor of *The Express*, is the man that Fleet Street is watching closely this month.

After decades of decline and a string of editors, during which sales of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* have declined by almost three million, Addis has launched what may be the last attempt to save the two papers which, under the ownership of the legendary Lord Beaverbrook, dominated Fleet Street both before and after the Second World War.

After 96 years there is no longer a *Daily Express* nor, after 78 years, a *Sunday Express*. Since October 5, Addis has been editing a seven-day newspaper, *The Express*. The *Express* on Saturday and *The Express* on Sunday.

The *Express* has been elegantly redesigned — some critics say too elegantly for a tabloid — and a daily sport section introduced within a newspaper of at least 80 pages. On weekdays the tele-



PAPER ROUND Brian MacArthur

vision listings are placed conveniently on the back page. Addis claims the paper has more colour pictures than any other national.

On Saturday there is a new glossy magazine and another, slightly less glossy, on Sunday. The *Express* has also introduced price cuts. There is a voucher offer for a 35p *Express* on Sunday, and the *Express* is selling all this week in Greater London for 10p.

Addis is carrying the battle to one of the two most ruthless newspaper managements in Britain at Associated Newspapers, owners of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*, ancient rivals of the *Express* group, and led by Lord Rothermere and Sir David English, who was the best editor of his generation.

Journalists are harsh critics of rival newspapers. Yet the response among those I meet has been that Addis's *Express* is "not at all bad", which

AUTUMN SALES WAR

DAILY TITLES	Av. Daily Sale (Sep 96)	Compared to Sep 95 +/-
THE SUN	4,041,229	-3868
D MIRROR	2,430,583	-128843
D EXPRESS	1,201,580	-8877
D MAIL	2,100,077	-233820
D STAR	882,849	-74231
D RECORD	722,214	-30155
TOTAL POPULAR	11,178,912	-60044
THE TIMES	810,493	128855
D TELEGRAPH	1,076,354	13222
GUARDIAN	400,083	1794
INDEPENDENT	266,426	-28981
FIN. TIMES	0	-295520
TOTAL QUALITY	2,533,336	-178520
GRAND TOTAL	13,732,248	-238864
SUNDAY TITLES		
N.O.W.	4,569,575	-208,828
THE PEOPLE	2,089,056	-31,020
S MIRROR	2,538,731	-47682
S EXPRESS	1,183,510	-228,951
MAIL ON SUNDAY	2,117,568	-27,551
TOTAL POPULAR	12,723,176	-551,378
SUNDAY TIMES	1,324,589	47,240
OBSEVER	466,910	-9,729
S TELEGRAPH	752,380	80,218
INDEPENDENTS	232,805	-37,221
TOTAL QUALITY	2,538,794	80,508
GRAND TOTAL	15,261,970	-470,870

the broadsheets which are having the best of the autumn. Selling at 10p on Mondays, *The Times* again hit a new record sale of 810,000 and narrowed the lead of *The Daily Telegraph* to 265,000 (compared with 673,000 when the price of *The Times* was reduced in 1993), but month by month the *Telegraph* still manages, just, to cling on to a sale of over one million. At weekends, *The Sunday*

Telegraph was up by 80,000 on a year ago. Under Editors Charles Moore and Dominic Lawson it has increased its sale over the past five years by 192,000 — but it is the mammoth *Sunday Times* which still cruises effortlessly ahead as market leader, almost out-selling all three of its Sunday rivals.

The Guardian remains well ahead of *The Independent*, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last week but which is still struggling to get lift off under its new editor Andrew Marr. It was the only broadsheet whose sales fell last month and *The Guardian* has increased circulation in the past year as *The Independent* has lost 27,000. For *The Observer* it was the *Sunday Times* that was once its main rival. It is now content with third place but the revamped paper is beginning to win back readers while year-on-year sales of *The Independent* on Sunday were down by 31,000. Its Editor, Peter Wilby paid the price for declining sales last week and was replaced by Rosie Boycott, the Editor of *Esquire* magazine, who is now the first woman editor of a British broadsheet.

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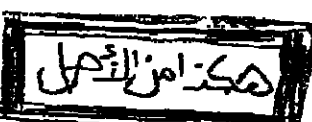
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FOOTBALL

Sunderland defiant in face of red cards

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

KEVIN BALL, the Sunderland midfielder player, has insisted that his team is not worried about its disciplinary record in the FA Carling Premiership, despite receiving four red cards in the first two months of the season.

Richard Ord became the fourth player to be sent off when he stamped on Nick Barmby, the England striker, during the 2-2 draw against Middlesbrough at Roker Park on Monday night. Ord, who was also dismissed at Derby County last month, is now in trouble with both the Football Association and Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, with a three-match ban for violent conduct and a hefty club fine the likely outcome.

Ball made no apology for the commitment that he believes is Sunderland's greatest strength. "This side has got a tremendous will to win and we're going to go out and battle away in every game," he said. "If that means you're walking a bit of a tightrope with certain referees, so be it. Last year, we were a committed side. That's what won us the first division championship."

Ord's dismissal was Sunderland's third in two games. Martin Scott and Paul Stewart were sent off during the 2-0 defeat at Arsenal, although Stewart's red card for a handball offence has since been quashed as Paul Danson, the referee, has admitted making a mistake.

Reid has hinted that heavy punishment now awaits Ord, who missed the match at Highbury because he was serving a suspension after his dismissal at Derby.

The final Wear-Tees derby before Sunderland move to a new stadium at Wearmouth provided an entertaining match and an answer to the critics who had accused Reid's team of being unduly negative. "We're not too fussed

about whether people think we're entertaining or not," Ball said.

A former senior referee yesterday claimed that Premiership officials "do as they're told" for fear of losing their positions this season. John Lloyd, of Wrexham, refereed in the Premiership and Football League, and was also a Fifa official, before retiring at the end of last season.

"It is not always the best referees who are in the Premier League, but more often the ones who do as they are told, and have contacts in football who can help them," Lloyd said.

Lloyd also criticised Football League assessors. "Assessors are often people with no experience of refereeing at the highest level," he said. "I refereed Chelsea and Tottenham in the 1993-94 season and was assessed by a 76-year-old, who had been a linesman for two seasons 30 years ago."

Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, is facing another potentially explosive situation — this time with Leeds United supporters — at Villa Park on Saturday.

Bosnich already has an FA disrepute charge hanging over him after his Nazi-style salute to Tottenham Hotspur fans at White Hart Lane on Saturday. He faces another tough afternoon from Leeds fans, who will recall the Australian being sent off in the closing stages of a Premiership match at Elland Road 18 months ago.

Villa insist that they will continue to pick Bosnich, who will then have to return to Elland Road next Wednesday for a Coca-Cola Cup third round tie. However, Allan Evans, the Villa assistant manager, said: "He's had problems with the Leeds crowd in the past. He was sent off there for wasting time and winding people up. He's been in the wrong a few times and he must start to grow up."

Open and shut case in Amsterdam

Nick Szczepanik visits the stadium where almost every possibility is seemingly covered

Performing regularly at Ibrox, one of Britain's finest football grounds, the players of Rangers know all about big stands; but when they run out to face Ajax at the £80 million, 51,200-seat Amsterdam Arena tonight, they will be looking at the first of a new generation of sports stadiums. Depending on the weather, Rangers may even find themselves playing indoors, thanks to the arena's sliding roof, the only one of its kind in Europe, which can be opened or shut in 15 minutes.

Privately owned — Ajax will rent it for home games at a cost of £2.8 million per season — and built by Ballast Nedam, an Anglo-Dutch company also involved with Sunderland's Wearmouth Stadium, the arena is "an event hall where you can play football", according to Peter Joubstra, one of the men behind it.

A Uefa consultant who wrote the European governing body's manual of technical requirements for new stadiums and collaborated on the Taylor Report, Joubstra is one of Europe's most respected experts on safety standards. He is convinced that hooliganism, even in Holland, will not be a problem.

"There has been a change of mind," Joubstra said. "The Ajax stadium is a totally new way of thinking. We don't even consider hooliganism any more." One of his preventive measures is to ensure high standards of spectator comfort and convenience (750 of those) although total evacuation time in the event of emergency, even from the 350 wheelchair spaces, is only six minutes. Joubstra does not want his "clients", as he calls them, to leave in a hurry.

In fact, he would like them there all day. "We have a cinema, crèches, 25 restaurants from Chinese to McDonald's, a concert hall and a snooker hall. After the game, you don't go straight home, you stay, watch a concert and have a drink or a meal."

The Ajax players have not felt as much at home as the move to the arena has coincided with a run of injuries, disputes and poor home form, including defeat in their previ-



The state-of-the-art Amsterdam Arena, in which Rangers will play Ajax tonight

ous Champions' League game against Grasshoppers.

The natural grass pitch has been causing problems. In choosing a fixed playing surface rather than the moveable sections of turf seen at Detroit's Pontiac Silverdome during USA 94, Ajax were gambling on an untried technological solution to a new situation — even with the roof open, some of the surface rarely sees sunlight — and, despite computer-controlled watering, drainage and temperature, it has already been back to the drawing board.

"We've had to return fixed sections, which did not 'take' as we would have liked,"

Ronald van der Aart, of the arena, said. "Winter is coming, and the problems may not be completely solved until it gets warm again in summer, but we're on the way to having them under control. We feel very confident that we will have a good pitch."

Other aspects of the move have been better. While Ajax used to attract average gates of only 18,000 and had to sell their best players to make ends meet, the new stadium, with two adjacent railway stations and a through-road giving access to underpitch parking, has generated such a surge of

interest that matches are sold out for the next two seasons. The first executive box to be sold on netted a 60 per cent profit on the cost of £100,000. Stadium tours attracted 2,500 a day, 7,000 on one Saturday, while the arena was still a hard-hat area. There has even been a wedding there.

As England contemplates a new national stadium, the Amsterdam Arena, ideal for a cold northern European setting — if they can get the grass right — points one way forward. The technology is not limited to 50,000-seat size. While England procrastinates, the first true 21st-century stadium is already here.

Koreans unmoved by Blatter remarks

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WORLD Cup organisers in South Korea said yesterday that they were not taking seriously criticism of preparations for the 2002 finals made by Sepp Blatter, the Fifa general secretary.

South Korea and Japan were jointly awarded the task of hosting the 2002 finals after both nations had spent months in bitter competition for the honour. Blatter warned that this rivalry had not diminished and that Fifa may have to award the event to another country.

Japanese officials would not comment, saying that they were still waiting to see the interview with Blatter in *World Soccer* magazine. They denied that Fifa had made any official complaint.

However, an official at the Office of Preparation for the 2002 World Cup in Seoul said that South Korean organisers were taking Blatter's comments as "personal" and "not serious". The official said that there was enough time for South Korea and Japan to resolve their differences through negotiations.

Disputes over the preparations have become so sensitive that Fifa has cautioned the two nations about making statements in public. "I must say that the countries are not only not coming closer, it's quite the opposite. They are moving further apart. This is not the marriage we want," Blatter allegedly told *World Soccer*.

A meeting is to be held in Zurich on November 6 and Blatter said that, before then, Fifa intends to meet Japanese and South Korean officials to discuss how they plan to work together. But he added: "It won't be easy. They cannot even agree on the shape of the tournament."

Japan, for instance, want perhaps 40 teams in the finals so they have more matches in their cities — but the Koreans want only 32 teams because they have envisaged only main host cities hosting matches.

Blatter warned that 2002 would be the only time that the tournament is hosted jointly. "We are learning to appreciate the reasons for one country even more in this present situation regarding 2002," he said.

Clark 'not at risk' in Forest takeover

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FRANK CLARK, the Nottingham Forest manager, has been assured that his job will be safe should Grant Bovey succeed in his battle to take control of the FA Carling Premiership club.

Bovey, a life-long Forest supporter, is favourite to take charge at the City Ground after making a near £30 million takeover bid, including a "substantial amount" of money to be made available to Clark for team-strengthening.

Bovey is so confident of beating the three other groups bidding for control that he has already spent hundreds of thousands of pounds to ensure that he could take over immediately if shareholders give their approval at Forest's annual meeting on October 31.

However, although he is concerned about Forest's position — they are fourth from bottom after failing to win since the opening day of the season — he will not be following the example set by the Caspian Group, which took charge of Leeds United in the summer and replaced Howard Wilkinson as manager with George Graham within a few weeks.

Bovey said: "It is not my intention to change the personnel. We haven't gone into detail about practical matters like that, but my initial reaction is that Frank Clark is a successful manager, and we would have no reasons at this point in time to replace him."

"From our point of view, the quicker things can happen the better. Every week that goes by is one lost in having the chance to improve the team, and with it picking up points — but the people at Forest are aware of that."

"People ask if I would go ahead with the deal if Forest were relegated, but if all goes to plan, I'll already be at the club long before such a time. I would like to help them now to avoid the possibility of going down. It is something we want to steer clear of because the financial implications would be considerable."

Forest have debts of more than £5 million, but Bovey is confident that he can make the club a viable proposition. "I wouldn't have taken things as far as I have if I didn't feel confident about that," he said.

QPR players threaten TV boycott

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

QUEENS Park Rangers players yesterday indicated that they will boycott their Sky TV match against Crystal Palace on November 10, should a strike be called this week. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is in dispute with the Football League, claiming that it is entitled to ten per cent of television revenue.

Players have until today to return their ballot forms and an announcement will be made on Saturday as to whether they have voted for strike action.

Simon Barker, the Queens Park Rangers captain, believes that PFA members

should stand firm. "We've negotiated until we are blue in the face and we've got nowhere," he said. "What can you say to an organisation that says 'go out there and entertain but, by the way, we are keeping your money'?"

If the players vote for a strike, it will come into force on November 1. The first game to be affected would be the Nationwide League first division match between Grimsby Town and Sheffield United on November 3.

John Dennis, the chairman of Barnsley, is still hoping that common sense will prevail. "We have discussed the situation with the management and the players," Dennis said.

"I hope a compromise can be reached between the PFA and the League, so that strike action can be avoided." The League is considering legal action in an attempt to prevent the strike.

Fulham have turned down an approach from Brighton and Hove Albion to ground-share at Craven Cottage next season. Brighton, who will be without a home from May, are still hoping to share with Portsmouth but a ground-share application has not yet been lodged with the League.

David Bellotti, the Brighton chief executive, sounded out Fulham officials after supporters mentioned five London grounds as possible alterna-

tives to Fratton Park at a meeting in July.

Jimmy Hill, the Fulham chairman, confirmed that he had turned down the approach because of an agreement with the local council. "We are sympathetic to Brighton's problems but there's no question of anyone else playing at Craven Cottage," he said.

Fratton Park was Brighton's first choice for a ground-share when the Goldstone Ground was sold 15 months ago. Crawley and Hove greyhound stadiums have also been considered as temporary homes. The club is keen to press on with plans for a new stadium at Toad's Hole Valley in Hove.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When there are finesses available in several suits, players can get confused as to which one to take. I hope you would have made a better shot at this hand than did the declarer. There are certain parallels to the Danny Roth hand I gave yesterday.

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
<p>♠ J 9 6 5 3 2 ♥ 10 9 8 3 ♦ A J</p>	<p>♠ Q J 9 6 5 ♥ A Q ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ Q 8 3</p>	<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ K 10 8 7 ♦ 5 2 ♣ K 7 6 5 2</p>

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: Jack of diamonds

South opened One Spade and North raised to Four Spades. Declarer won the diamond in hand with the queen, and his first mistake was to play a heart to the queen, attempting to dispose of his losing club.

But there was no hurry for this. Playing the finesse against the jack of clubs is as good as finessing against the king of hearts. A club return from East after he wins the king of hearts enables the defence to get a club ruff to beat the contract, but in practice East returned a diamond. In desperation declarer had to lay down the ace of spades.

When that dropped the king he could enter dummy with the second round of spades to take a club discard on the ace of hearts: thus after some ping-pong at tricks two and three declarer made his contract.

This is the correct technique. Lay down the ace of spades at trick two. If both players follow without the king falling, continue with the ace of

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

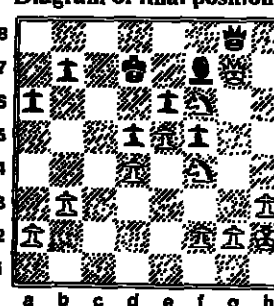
London clubs
The new season of the Hamilton Russell League for London clubs is under way. In the first cup match Brooke's Club beat the Chelsea Arts Club by 4½-1½. The Arts Club, though, had the consolation of winning this game on board one.

White: Barry Martin (Chelsea Arts Club)
Black: Martin Russell (Brooke's Club)

Hamilton Russell Cup League, London, October 1996

French Defence (by transposition)	
1 d4	c5
2 e4	e6
3 Nf3	Qc7
4 e5	Qe7
5 Bc3	Ne7
6 Bb2	Nb6
7 Bc3	Bd7
8 O-O	c5
9 c3	Qc4
10 cxd4	Bb4
11 Nc3	Ba3
12 Ne2	Bc1
13 Bc1	Be1
14 Rcc1	Be1
15 Nf4	Nf6
16 Nf5	Qd4
17 Nf6	Be8
18 Nf4	Bf7
19 Kh1	Rc8
20 Rf8	Nc8
21 Qd2	Ne7
22 Re1	Qd7
23 Nf5	Nf6
24 Bb5	Rd8
25 Rc3	a6
26 Bc6	Rc6
27 Rf6	Qc6
28 Kh2	Nf8
29 Nf7+	Kd7
30 Qb4+	Kc6
31 Qf8+	Kd7
32 Qg7	Qc8
33 Qh6	Kd7
34 Qf8	Kd7
35 Qg7	Kd7
36 Qf7	Cg8
37 Nf6+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Correction

Lord Kilbracken has written to point out that the diagram on Monday for the game Znosko-Borovsky — Silverman was missing the black knight on g4. This column welcomes games, comments and queries by readers. The best games will be published in *The Times*.

Tilburg

After four rounds of the Fontys tournament in Tilburg, Holland, Alexei Shirov leads with three points. Britain's Michael Adams has two points, having defeated Judith Polgar in an 82-move marathon.

Times book

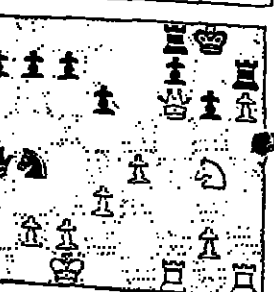
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01753 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

While to play this position is from the game Krasov — Averbakh, USSR 1969. A question that could be asked in this position is how did the black rook get to the strange square h7? However, a more interesting question is how did White now finish his kingside attack in brilliant style?



Solution on page 50

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- LASTAGE**
a. A tax on fairs
b. Old age
c. Endurance
- MNA**
a. An Egyptian goddess
b. A weight
c. A bird
- MATHEISIS**
a. Mental discipline
b. A sculptor's frame
c. A rock plant
- LYFKIE**
a. A fairy
b. A bodice
c. A Greek pot

Answers on page 50

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RACING: OWNER HARBOURS DOUBTS ABOUT MELBOURNE TRIP

Lehane aware of pitfalls facing Oscar Schindler

By OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Oscar Schindler lines up for the Melbourne Cup on November 5, his owner Oliver Lehane's stomach will be knotted even tighter than usual. Known for his nerves, Lehane is going against his instincts in sending the Irish St Leger winner and third for Australia's greatest race.

After Oscar Schindler strode past the Arc finishing post, Lehane's immediate thoughts were of the Breeders' Cup in Toronto, an ideal chance to make his only international stallion prospect. He has been persuaded against that by Michael Kinane and his trainer, Kevin Prendergast.

"I was told I was off my head going for the Breeders' Cup but I don't accept that," he said. "Helios is not going to Canada and we would have been meeting the same horses as we did in the Arc. Australia is just not of the same significance in stud terms as the Breeders' Cup but I've given in to the pressure as I don't know enough about racing to argue," Lehane said.

Lehane is reluctant to go against his instincts as he has served him well. The

Curragh-based bachelor, 53, is now semi-retired but secure, having started his working life as a bank official. Self-made and a realist, he holds few illusions about racing, especially the difficulties facing the small owner.

"If I got out of horses now I



Lehane realist

wouldn't miss it. Racing has never been a passion for me. It's just so difficult for the small owner. I'm lucky to have a good horse but it is also a worry. If I was offered the choice of playing golf with three pals or going racing there would be no contest," Lehane, who part-owned the

1989 Thyestes Chase winner, Olan Lad, said.

He is keen however not to sound like a moaner but to realism is a word that keeps cropping up in conversation. Brought up in the small town of Ady, Co Kildare, his first sporting interest was greyhounds but eventually his involvement was curtailed because of work. Ten years with a provincial bank ended when he joined his family's amusement arcade business.

Lehane expanded his arcade business into Dublin and sold out profitably ten years ago. He now confines himself to an interest in a number of nursing homes in Belfast. Experience though has taught him financial realism.

He said: "The honour and the glory of Melbourne is fine but it will be a long haul back if he runs badly and I'll be £60,000 down. The flight alone will cost £48,000. The first prize in Melbourne, I believe, is £750,000, less 20 per cent for trainer and jockey and the £60,000 expenses, so that's around an 8-1 gamble on winning. That is more worry than excitement," he said.

Lehane confirms that no arrangement regarding expenses has been struck, but he is surprised that there is no

deal even on the horizon about Oscar Schindler's stud future.

"The offers so far have been ridiculous. I was offered £500,000 recently and my reply was: 'Which leg do you want for that? If I can't sell him, I'll race him at five.'"

His experience has confirmed his belief that flat racing at the top level is more business than sport, including securing the services of top jockeys.

"I can't normally get the Kinane, the Dettori or the Eddys of this world because they're all tied up so Kevin [Prendergast] and myself have had to use the best available. This is a top-heavy game."

But there are upsidies too. Oscar Schindler has a devoted following, including a Dublin taxi driver who has travelled to Paris and England this year to see every one of his races.

"That's the nice part and inwardly I'm thrilled to see a horse I bred myself do so well," he said. Victory in Melbourne though would be more relief than exaltation.

"Ultimately, people want honour and glory. I want the best for the horse and to make him more valuable. I've said I'm going and I'm going. Let's just hope we don't live to regret it," he said.



Eddy can afford to ease Showboat down after an impressive first appearance at Leicester yesterday

Showboat takes first step to stardom

VETERAN owner-breeder Dick Hollingsworth has produced a stream of high-class horses over four decades and Showboat looks another booked for stardom after an impressive debut victory at Leicester yesterday.

The crimson silks with silver braid have been carried with distinction by a succession of top-class performers, notably Buoy, the 1980 Oaks winner Birnie, Longboat, Pilot and Sea Anchor.

Showboat dismissed his nine oppo-

nents in division two of the EBF Maiden Stakes with complete authority. Eddy cruised to the front on the 2-1 chance two furlongs out and the son of Warning stormed clear.

Eddy went on to complete a double when giving Question a powerful ride to edge out Miss Riviera in a thrilling finish to the Fillies' Conditions Stakes.

Coral yesterday took evasive action over Harbour Island for Saturday's Tote Cesarewitch, cutting his price to

16-1 (from 25-1) after it was revealed he would be ridden by Frankie Dettori. Harbour Island, trained by Michael Stoute, was ridden by the reigning champion when a staying-on fourth behind Floccus at Ascot last Friday.

Sarah Lamb, the amateur rider, was taken to North Ties Hospital with concussion and suspected internal injuries after taking a heavy fall from Forever Sky at the first fence in the LBW Novices' Chase at Sedgfield yesterday.

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

- 1.30 Catenus
- 2.00 Myrmidon
- 2.30 Gonzaga
- 3.00 Bee Health Boy
- 3.30 HARBOUR DUES (nap)
- 4.00 Sweetness Herself
- 4.00 Courtship
- 5.00 Datto Star

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.30 COURTSHIP. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Fij. 3.30 MINDS MUSIC (nap). 4.30 Sekani.

GOING: SOFT

DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND HAWTHORN MAIDEN STAKES (2Y-O: 2-10, £3,160; 7f 30yd) (12 runners)

- 101 (2) 50 CATERNUS 28 (P) (Shelagh Mather) 9-0-0 K Dwyer 88
- 102 (1) 100 MYRMIDON 17 (P) (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 103 (10) 100 HITT THE FLAG 5 (Barnham) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 104 (4) 6 BEE HEALTH BOY 20 (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 105 (12) 100 OUTLANDER 11 (P) (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 106 (6) 100 RAVINE 4 (P) (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 107 (8) 100 RHYTHM 10 (P) (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 108 (7) 100 TOP OF THE GREENS 14 (P) (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 109 (11) 100 SPARKLING 14 (P) (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 110 (3) 100 STAR PRECIOUS 14 (P) (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88
- 111 (9) 100 TAILOR 14 (P) (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88

BETTING: 5-2 Catenus, 9-2 Myrmidon, 9-2 Rhythm, 11-2 Top of the Greens, 7-1 Myrmidon, 9-1 Star Precious, 10-1 Tailor.

1995: POLAR ECLIPSE 9-4 (M. J. O'Brien) 9-0-0 M. J. O'Brien 88

FORM FOCUS

CATERNUS 1941 2nd of 6 in West Handedness, 1st in 2nd, 2nd in 3rd, 3rd in 4th, 4th in 5th, 5th in 6th, 6th in 7th, 7th in 8th, 8th in 9th, 9th in 10th, 10th in 11th, 11th in 12th, 12th in 13th, 13th in 14th, 14th in 15th, 15th in 16th, 16th in 17th, 17th in 18th, 18th in 19th, 19th in 20th, 20th in 21st, 21st in 22nd, 22nd in 23rd, 23rd in 24th, 24th in 25th, 25th in 26th, 26th in 27th, 27th in 28th, 28th in 29th, 29th in 30th, 30th in 31st, 31st in 32nd, 32nd in 33rd, 33rd in 34th, 34th in 35th, 35th in 36th, 36th in 37th, 37th in 38th, 38th in 39th, 39th in 40th, 40th in 41st, 41st in 42nd, 42nd in 43rd, 43rd in 44th, 44th in 45th, 45th in 46th, 46th in 47th, 47th in 48th, 48th in 49th, 49th in 50th, 50th in 51st, 51st in 52nd, 52nd in 53rd, 53rd in 54th, 54th in 55th, 55th in 56th, 56th in 57th, 57th in 58th, 58th in 59th, 59th in 60th, 60th in 61st, 61st in 62nd, 62nd in 63rd, 63rd in 64th, 64th in 65th, 65th in 66th, 66th in 67th, 67th in 68th, 68th in 69th, 69th in 70th, 70th in 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762nd, 762nd in 763rd, 763rd in 764th, 764th in 765th,

David Powell meets a former junior champion for whom tennis is history

Baily happy with no strings attached

In the week that Tim Henman achieved the highest world ranking by a British male tennis player for 12 years, and Greg Rusedski struck the fastest recorded serve on his way to winning the Beijing Open, James Baily did nothing to merit a newspaper headline. Not like three years ago. Not that he cared.

Baily's week started with his first day on a languages degree course at Bristol University which, though not a media event, at least opened a new chapter in his life. "Any regrets?" was the key question to Baily, who abandoned a potentially lucrative and glamorous career in professional tennis, mainly because he feared he was a monomaniac.

His reply, delivered with no more time to think than a service return, was a decisive "no". Other reasons for quitting? "I did not feel I had achieved everything I wanted but I felt stagnant," he said. "I did not want to go through the daily labour of training, strict diet, lack of intellectual stimulation, always early to bed, early up."

In 1993, Baily became the first British boy for 28 years to win a junior grand-slam championship, taking the Australian title in Melbourne.

"World beater" was one national headline, "their apparent" another. Defeating Hen-



man, as he used to, seemed nothing by comparison with holding up a trophy on which were inscribed the names of Rod Laver, Ken Rosewall, John Newcombe and Stefan Edberg.

It seems more appropriate now to record that also on the trophy were the names of Jorgen Windahl and Geoff Whitecross. They, too, never delivered on that early promise. Baily's neat fair hair has given way to shoulder-length, untidy brown locks. His smart, immaculate, sponsored kit has been replaced by scruffy student clothing.

Baily, still only 21, has kept quiet at university about his tennis past, about how William Hill offered him at 100-1 to win Wimbledon before the

year 2000, about his interview on *Sportsnight* with Des Lynam, about how Sky News cameras turned up at his home in Curridge, Hampshire, after his victory in Melbourne to film him on the family tennis court. "I am completely indistinguishable from any other student," Baily said. Proud of it, too.

Baily has not a single racket with him at university, has not even joined the tennis society. "I would rather spend my time doing absolutely anything else," he said. "I have joined the German society, and the Irish society, and I was thinking of joining the Morris dancing club." He gives tennis, and tennis people, hardly a moment's thought.

When was your last tournament? "About August 1994." When was the last time you picked up a racket? "Two or three months ago, at home with my girlfriend." And the last time you went to watch a match? "Oh God [pauses] — over a year ago. I cannot remember who I watched. I think I went for the strawberries and cream and to bump into a few old friends."

The last time you watched tennis on television? "That would have been Henman at Wimbledon."

Ah, Henman at Wimbledon. So, do we hear Baily singing "Could've been me"? No, we do not, Baily insists. "I used to play him a lot," he recalled. "We both started off at the David Lloyd Tennis School and I was in a three-man squad: myself, him and [Jamie] Delgado. I cannot remember losing to him but I must have done."

"I would have expected to beat him all the time but it takes so many other factors [to reach the top] — hard work and the dedication of abstaining from so many aspects of life. It would not have been possible to succeed with my mental attitude."

Surely some small regret, when you watched Henman at Wimbledon, that you had not at least stuck at it longer? "I did not even think about it. There was no jealousy or envy, which would have been a sign of regret."

Within weeks of his triumph in Australia, Baily became increasingly aware that he lacked the drive evident in Henman now. He dropped out of tennis in 1994, aged 19. "I had been questioning myself and my future on and off for a year, thinking: Am I doing the right thing? Am I a monomaniac? I thought I was."

"I developed an interest in languages through my years as a tennis player and through my travel. Tennis had been a way of life since the age of 12. I got coaching when I was seven and played my first tournament when I was eight. I only had one shot at life. It was time to try something else."

"I'm ever so pleased I have had the experience, particu-

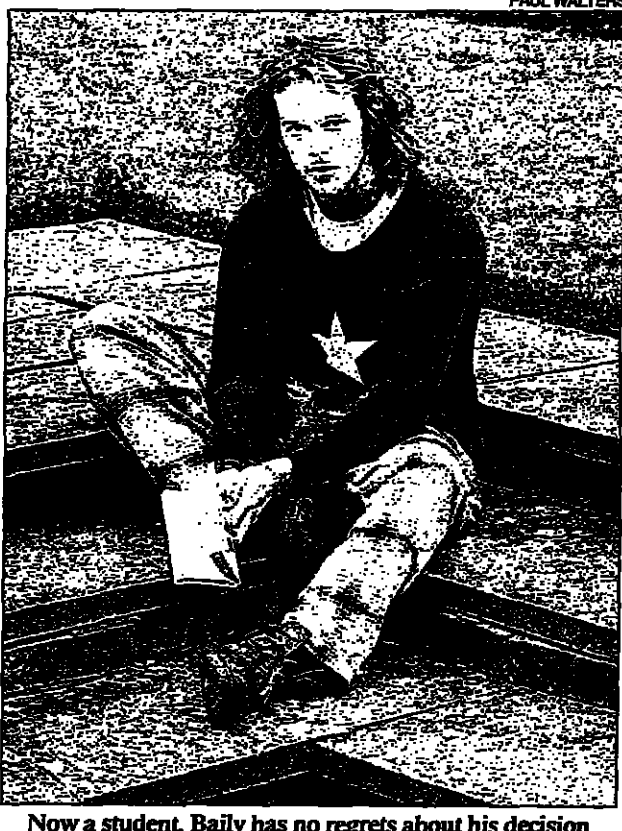


Triumphant in Melbourne in 1993, Baily turned his back on tennis the next year

larly the travel, meeting people, and the experience of other cultures, the elation of winning and the depths of despair of injury and loss. The idea of doing French and German is to immerse myself in their society, culture and language, and to come out with a more informed view than the native would have."

Lloyd is among those proved wrong. "I think he will make it," Lloyd said in 1993, noting Baily's "enormous" forehead. Lloyd added that it was "frightening" how the British press so wanted a champion, but Baily was not frightened off. "I was quite nonchalant as far as press coverage was concerned," Baily said. "It did not put pressure on me."

He has four years ahead of him at university. Then what? He could call on former tennis contacts to provide him with work, using his languages in marketing or management. "I would rather not do that," he said. "I would rather find something completely new." Anyone for tennis? Not Baily. Anything but tennis.



Now a student, Baily has no regrets about his decision

SNOOKER: POLITICAL WRANGLING OVERSHADOWS START OF GRAND PRIX

Doyle calls for Spencer to stand down

POLITICAL infighting in professional snooker is hardly a new phenomenon, but even the most staunch supporter of the game's governing body would find it difficult to deny that an unusual groundswell of dissatisfaction exists at present (Phil Yates writes).

Critics of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), of which there are many, have grown increasingly frustrated over a number of issues, including the ranking system, organisational errors and a lack of sponsorship for two of the premier events on the circuit.

The Grand Prix, the first domestic tournament of the season, which carries a world-ranking point tariff, begins its ten-day run at the Bournemouth International Centre this morning without any corporate financial backing.

In April, when the BBC signed a five-year contract with the WPBSA to cover four events per season, it was generally assumed that the Grand Prix, and the United Kingdom championship, which takes place at Preston next month, would be attractive propositions for potential sponsors.

Yet, despite viewing figures which

remain the envy of most sports, and more prime-time programme slots, the total prize-money of £330,000 on offer at the Grand Prix will be drawn from WPBSA coffers.

The WPBSA pleads shortage of time since signing the BBC contract and an unwillingness to sell the events for less than it considers them to be worth. But Ian Doyle, manager of Stephen Hendry, the defending Grand Prix champion, has publicly stated that he believes John Spencer, the WPBSA chairman, should "move over", and that a "proper management structure" should be put in place.

SQUASH

Leading contenders slow to find form

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA

DISAPPOINTMENT in the Perrier World Open Championship last week has obviously left some psychological baggage with the leading contenders. Both Cassandra Jackman, of England, and Michelle Martin, of Australia, were extended, surprisingly, to five games on the second qualifying day of the world team championship here yesterday.

Jackman, leading the line in an eventual 3-0 win over Holland, played with some authority against Vanessa Atkinson until she reached 6-0 in the second game, having won the first 9-4.

She then seemed to lose interest, triggering a determined attack from the Dutch woman, who lost that game marginally but took the next two on tie breaks, despite an

England match ball at 8-6 in the fourth. Jackman won 9-4, 9-6, 8-10, 9-2 in 59 minutes and, with Suzanne Horner and Fiona Geaves both winning, England confirmed their lead in pool B.

Martin, the triple world champion, whose defence was unexpectedly ended in the individual quarter-finals last Friday, yesterday found herself 0-5 down in the fifth game against Claire Nitch, the South African first-string, before stiffening her resolve to get home 9-0, 9-4, 4-9, 2-9, 9-6.

Sarah FitzGerald, the new world champion, needed just 16 minutes to add the second rubber and Carol Owens contributed the third-string rubber to leave Australia leading pool A.

Results, page 47

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

LASTAGE

(a) A toll payable by traders attending fairs and markets, from the medieval Latin *lastagium*. Connected with *last* meaning a commercial denomination of weight. "That all the citizens of London be quit of toll and lastage."

MNA

(b) A unit of weight anciently used in Western Asia, Greece and Egypt. Probably originally a Babylonian word. "The Greeks had a second pound of 16 physical ounces, called the *mna* or *mina*."

MATHESIS

(a) Mental discipline, learning or science, especially mathematical science. From the Greek *mathesis* action of learning, from the root of *mathēnō* to learn. "They can make infinite progress in the infinite fields of mathesis."

LYFKIE

(b) A bodice. From the Dutch *lyfken* "corpusculum, subculet, coramio". *Lyf*, *Euphuus* 1579: "Their spous, their lawnes, their leekfeyes, their ruffes, their ringes/ Shew them rather Cardinals curtisanes then modest Matrones."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qg7+! Rsg7 2 Nf6+ Kh8 3 hsg7+ Ksg7 4 Rh7 checkmate

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Send SAE for further details. **STERLING** US dollar cheques only (1-108 £100 each). **OFFER** 11 red any three books purchased. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** 1996: Books 100, 121, 142, 163, 184, 205, 226, 247, 268, 289, 310, 331, 352, 373, 394, 415, 436, 457, 478, 499, 520, 541, 562, 583, 604, 625, 646, 667, 688, 709, 730, 751, 772, 793, 814, 835, 856, 877, 898, 919, 940, 961, 982, 1003, 1024, 1045, 1066, 1087, 1108, 1129, 1150, 1171, 1192, 1213, 1234, 1255, 1276, 1297, 1318, 1339, 1360, 1381, 1402, 1423, 1444, 1465, 1486, 1507, 1528, 1549, 1570, 1591, 1612, 1633, 1654, 1675, 1696, 1717, 1738, 1759, 1780, 1801, 1822, 1843, 1864, 1885, 1906, 1927, 1948, 1969, 1990, 2011, 2032, 2053, 2074, 2095, 2116, 2137, 2158, 2179, 2200, 2221, 2242, 2263, 2284, 2305, 2326, 2347, 2368, 2389, 2410, 2431, 2452, 2473, 2494, 2515, 2536, 2557, 2578, 2599, 2620, 2641, 2662, 2683, 2704, 2725, 2746, 2767, 2788, 2809, 2830, 2851, 2872, 2893, 2914, 2935, 2956, 2977, 2998, 3019, 3040, 3061, 3082, 3103, 3124, 3145, 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142, 163, 184, 205, 226, 247, 268, 289, 310, 331, 352, 373, 394, 415, 436, 457, 478, 499, 520, 541, 562, 583, 604, 625, 646, 667, 688, 709, 730, 751, 772, 793, 814, 835, 856, 877, 898, 919, 940, 961, 982, 1003, 1024, 1045, 1066, 1087, 1108, 1129, 1150, 1171, 1192, 1213, 1234, 1255, 1276, 1297, 1318, 1339, 1360, 1381, 1402, 1423, 1444, 1465, 1486, 1507, 1528, 1549, 1570, 1591, 1612, 1633, 1654, 1675, 1696, 1717, 1738, 1759, 1780, 1801, 1822, 1843, 1864, 1885, 1906, 1927, 1948, 1969, 1990, 2011, 2032, 2053, 2074, 2095, 2116, 2137, 2158, 2179, 2199, 2220, 2241, 2262, 2283, 2304, 2325, 2346, 2367, 2388, 2409, 2430, 2451, 2472, 2493, 2514, 2535, 2556, 2577, 2598, 2619, 2640, 2661, 2682, 2703, 2724, 2745, 2766, 2787, 2808, 2829, 2850, 2871, 2892, 2913, 2934, 2955, 2976, 2997, 3018, 3039, 3060, 3081, 3102, 3123, 3144, 3165, 3186, 3207, 3228, 3249, 3270, 3291, 3312, 3333, 3354, 3375, 3396, 3417, 3438, 3459, 3480, 3501, 3522, 3543, 3564, 3585, 3606, 3627, 3648, 3669, 3690, 3711, 3732, 3753, 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RUGBY LEAGUE 47

Britain stopped
in their tracks
by President's men

SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16 1996

RACING 49

Lehane bows to
pressure in
Melbourne Cup bid



Fenerbahce offer hospitable welcome but stern examination United facing friendly fire

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN ISTANBUL

WHEN Manchester United step out into Asia to play a European Cup Champions' League match at 9.30 local time here tonight, they will be advancing into a garden of light. The name Fenerbahce alludes to the club's origins on the site of a former lighthouse, which lies on the eastern side of the Bosphorus, and thus brings Asia into the remit of European club football.

Things are pleasant here, which will surprise anyone expecting a repetition of past hostilities, notably when England played in Izmir, and when Manchester United twice visited Istanbul to play Galatasaray and were greeted with placards reading: "Welcome to Hell."

The Turkish people, and the Fenerbahce club in particular, have done everything possible to soothe the waters and to ensure that this encounter will be bathed in proper sporting

Ajax's new home 48
Defiant Sunderland 48

friendship, even though no one is pretending that it is less than a vital contest, or that the 26,200 Fenerbahce supporters who will fill the ground to capacity will be anything less than fanatical in support of their "Canaries" against what they consider to be a giant of Europe.

Manchester United, limping into the stadium for training last night, had several players tentatively hoping to persuade Alex Ferguson, their manager, of their match fitness. Gary Pallister, his sore back having kept him out of the game against Liverpool last weekend, is the manager's biggest doubt. But Ferguson says that Ryan Giggs is struggling with a calf strain and that Paul Scholes, David May and Jordi Cruyff have an assortment of niggles. They did train yesterday, but the verdict usually comes with the awakening the next morning.

One man whose place is in no doubt, despite his admission over the weekend that his



Ferguson was quick to defend Cantona, the out-of-form Manchester United captain, on the eve of the match against Fenerbahce yesterday

performance against Liverpool had been among the worst of his life, is the United captain, Eric Cantona. Indeed, Ferguson grew irritated yesterday when questioned about him. "Are you telling me there is some player in the world who has been magnificent all his life? Is that what you are trying to tell me? Listen, Eric will be playing tomorrow."

Ferguson's explanation for Cantona's lapse in form, his indifference to the team effort

last Saturday, when he strayed out to the left wing, was that, because France no longer pick him, Cantona had to train almost alone in Manchester recently, the others being away for nearly a fortnight on international duty, with the exception of David May.

Sebastiao Lazaroni, the Brazilian who coaches Fenerbahce, also spoke in praise of Cantona, though with a slightly mischievous aside. Cantona is a fine player, Lazaroni enthused. "He is Manchester United's captain and I appreciate him a lot even if, sometimes, he disappears during games. When he does do something it is often something special."

Lazaroni, like his predecessor in charge of the Turkish club, Carlos Alberto Parreira, is not exactly a guardian angel of the beautiful game. He coached the 1990 Brazil World Cup side, Parreira coached the 1994 World Cup winners, and both are of the school of pragmatists who have tried to add order and defensiveness to Brazil's game. So, unsur-

GROUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Man Utd	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Fenerbahce	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Rapid Vienna	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

RESULTS: Juventus 1 Manchester United 0; Rapid Vienna 1 Fenerbahce 1; Manchester United 2 Rapid Vienna 0; Fenerbahce 0 Juventus 1.

MATCHES TO COME: Today: Rapid Vienna v Juventus; Fenerbahce v Manchester United; Oct 20: Juventus v Rapid Vienna; Manchester United v Fenerbahce; Nov 20: Manchester United v Juventus; Fenerbahce v Rapid Vienna; Dec 4: Rapid Vienna v Manchester United; Juventus v Fenerbahce.

prisingly, Lazaroni spoke yesterday of "concentrating 100 per cent during the game because Manchester United have players in the front line, on the flanks and even from midfield who can penetrate very fast. Our first job is to neutralise these dangers."

Fenerbahce's league record suggests that neutralising is second nature to them. They have conceded only six goals in 11 games this season, and let in only 19 in 34 last term. And, as Peter Schmeichel will know, it is not an excitable defence that responds to the religious fervour of Turkish

crowds. Jes Høgh, who has played 29 times for Denmark in front of Schmeichel, is an eloquent talker on and off the field, a calm player.

"We have to win four points out of these two games against Manchester United," Høgh reasoned. "Or else our chance of qualifying behind Juventus in the group is gone."

Both sides agree on that: both Ferguson and Lazaroni consider Juventus to be the leading team in the group, and concede that they are effectively playing one another for second place. When that place can earn upwards of £7 million, it is not surprising that there are tensions around the camps, despite the calming weather and the best intentions of everyone not to lapse into hysterical nationalism.

United players and officials admit that they would settle for a draw tonight, given their unbeaten record in European games at Old Trafford. However, though Fenerbahce reputedly think of themselves as a smaller club, do not be fooled. Founded at the turn of the century, either by two

English families or by students of the French college of St Joseph — depending on which page of history you turn — Fenerbahce have gathered many years of experience.

They expend no mean wealth on recruiting worldly talent. Apart from Høgh, they have two Africans: the central defender, Uche Okochukwu, and, in midfield, Augustine Okocha, a mercurial Nigerian whose dancing feet can be bewitching and bemuse. And their attack comprises Elvir Bolic, a Bosnian now naturalised in Turkey who has scored 11 goals in nine games this season, and Emil Kostadinov, the Bulgarian who can be unforgivingly sharp, or downright nasty.

Fenerbahce believe that they must stand up and beat United tonight. And for United? This, surely, is a time to go gentle, but not meek, into the night. FENERBAHCE (probably): 4-4-2: R. Pustis — Y. Biser, U. Okochukwu, J. Høgh, H. Ibrahim — U. Bulut, A. Okocha, S. Kamelesin, A. Tuncay — E. Bolic, E. Kostadinov. MANCHESTER UNITED (probably): 4-1-3-1-1: P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, D. May, G. Pallister, D. Brown — R. Johnson, D. Beckham, N. Butt, R. Giggs — E. Cantona — G. Solari. Referee: M. Diaz Vega (Spain).

Rangers seek to earn the right of reply

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN AMSTERDAM

AS IF wounding results in Europe were not bad enough, Rangers have had to endure cutting words this season. Even Valeri Gazzayev, the coach of Alania Vladikavkaz, thrashed 10-3 on aggregate by the flob club in the preliminary round of the European Cup, felt free to produce some disparagement after the first leg of the tie. The invective, however, has grown more marked with each game that passes.

Another manager, Christian Gross, criticised Rangers' attitude after Grasshopper Club's 3-0 victory in the opening match of the Champions' League. Louis van Gaal did not even wait until after Ajax's meeting with the Scottish club, at the Amsterdam Arena this evening, before maligning his opponents. He had been unimpressed by Rangers when watching them lose 2-1 to Hibernian on Saturday.

The Ajax coach castigated Brian Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne, saying that "they played for themselves and not for the team". Already beaten by Grasshopper and Auxerre, Rangers require at least a draw tonight to revive their prospects of qualifying for the quarter-finals, but they also seek the means of rebuking those adversaries who have portrayed them as the dullards of European football.

Van Gaal's disapproval of Laudrup and Gascoigne was inevitable, given that his own vision of excellence places more emphasis on tactical intelligence than individualism. However, in rallying a Rangers squad savaged by injuries, the manager, Walter Smith, gave a pointed endorsement of those two players. "Any team with a Laudrup and a Gascoigne in it has got to have a chance," he said.

The Dane responded to Van Gaal's opinions like a man who has heard, and ignored, such accusations many times before. "You have to do what you are best at," Laudrup said. "Paul Gascoigne is very good at creating things and taking on opponents, so leave him as he is."

The Rangers manager had a more antagonistic reply. "It seems that every coach we have faced this season has had some adverse comment to make," Smith said. "If that's his opinion then it is a respect-

ed one because he has had a lot of success, but maybe the effort of keeping that success going is one of the reasons he is leaving."

Van Gaal's team has indeed been floundering and he has confirmed that he will take up a post with a foreign club next season. It is assumed that he is to form a partnership with Bobby Robson at Barcelona. In the meantime his great achievements with Ajax, who won the European Cup in 1995 and reached the final last season, are being superseded by recrimination.

Ajax's form, since seeing Michael Reiziger and Edgar Davids move to AC Milan, under the Bosman ruling, without compensation, has been flimsy and they are at present a mid-table team in the Dutch league. In Europe they have lost successive matches at home in the Champions' Cup, being beaten 1-0 both by Auxerre, in Septem-

GC Zurich	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Auxerre	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Rangers	2	0	0	2	1	2	0

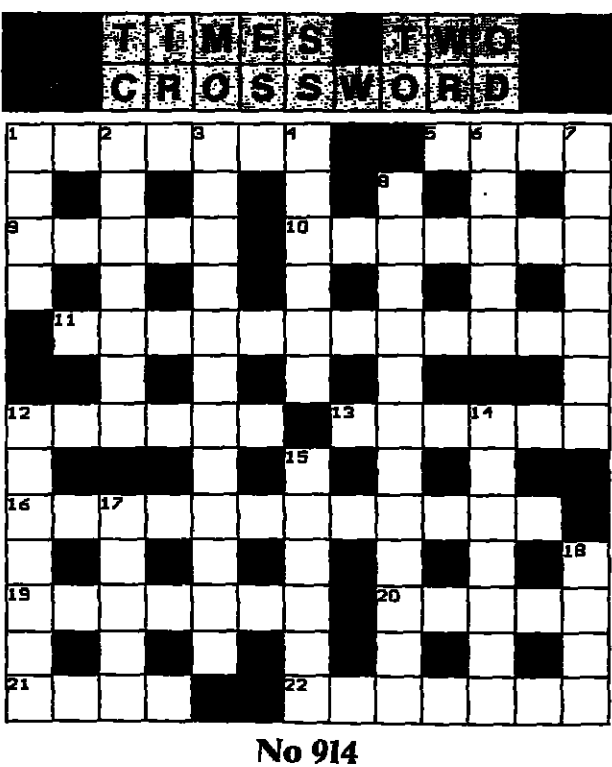
RESULTS: Auxerre 0 Ajax 1; Grasshopper Zurich 3 Rangers 0; Rangers 1 Auxerre 1.

MATCHES TO COME: Today: Ajax v Rangers; Auxerre v Grasshopper Zurich; Oct 30: Grasshopper Zurich v Auxerre; Rangers v Ajax; Nov 20: Rangers v Grasshopper Zurich; Ajax v Auxerre; Dec 4: Grasshopper Zurich v Ajax; Auxerre v Rangers.

ber, and by Panathinaikos in the first leg of their semi-final last season.

Van Gaal's mood has not been helped by the likely absence this evening of the injured Jari Litmanen and Patrick Kluivert, as well as the veteran Danny Blind, who will be unavailable for months after undergoing surgery. Rangers' difficulties, though, are even more extensive and Laudrup could be the only recognised forward fit to play this evening.

The team may even lack the reassuring excellence of Andy Goram, as the goalkeeper is troubled by a hip injury. The party taken to Amsterdam bristles, of necessity, with youngsters such as Gek, Shields, Paul McKnight, Steven Boyack and Brian McGinty. So great is Smith's predicament that he might yet be forced to field one of them before this evening is over.



No 914

- ACROSS
- 1 Sky spectrum (7)
 - 5 Raised platform (4)
 - 9 Underwater worker (5)
 - 10 Bring into being; understand (7)
 - 11 Invaluable helper (5-4-3)
 - 12 Before 1930 (or 1918) (5-3)
 - 13 Notoriety (6)
 - 14 Made to seem less important (12)
 - 19 Nature-spirit worshipper (7)
 - 20 Fix (computer program) (5)
 - 21 Quote (4)
 - 22 Hide boat (7)
- DOWN
- 1 Be carried (4)
 - 2 Statement of money owed (7)
 - 3 In which one is naked (8,4)
 - 4 Dignitary (6)
 - 6 Widely-accepted principle (5)
 - 7 In harsh, strict way (7)
 - 8 Soldiers for slaughter (6,6)
 - 12 Unimaginative (7)
 - 14 Old distilling retort (7)
 - 15 Scandinavian sea (6)
 - 17 Turn out of home (5)
 - 18 Leer at (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 913
ACROSS: 1 Brash 4 Aerobic 8 Satisfy 9 Usual 10 Bushy 11 Unity 13.15 Lingua Franca 18 Cliche 20 Sum up 22 Ounce 23 Open day 24 Kindred 25 Recur
DOWN: 1 Baseball 2 Artisan 3 Husky 4 Asylum 5 Equator 6 Bound 7 Cull 12 Tuxpayer 14 Unclear 16 Nomadic 17 Devoted 19 Linen 20 Sheer 21 Folk

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 909
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Norway 5 Bank 8 Bede 9 Narrator 10 Darkness 11 Aisle 12 Herald 14 Intact 16 Shod 18 Organise 20 Peterloo 21 Guard 22 Mass 23 Natter
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Wonder-goal elevates Ronaldo to superstar status in Spain

Tunku Varadarajan on the boy from
Brazil now taking Barcelona by storm

The Spanish sporting press has always been partial to purple prose, but read these lines from the *Sunday Times* correspondent of *El Pais*: "This boy, with the body of a mastiff, the looks of a lamb and the teeth of a bunny rabbit, is one of those mutations that happens when the Gods play dice."

Try this offering next, from the man from the ABC newspaper, who is presumably trying to describe magic to his readers: "He creates art each time he touches the ball, and instead of football boots he seems to wear two large baskets, from which a white rabbit could leap out at any time." The writer from *El Mundo*, by comparison, is prosaic: "He has the power of an American quarterback and the lungs of a German mid-field player. He is a species of deca-footballer. He is the future."

The object of this veneration, the idol of every football-watching Spaniard, is Ronaldo, this 20-year-old from Brazil who has entranced Spain that comparisons with Di Stefano, Maradona, even Pelé, are now made almost daily in the press. He cost Barcelona 2,500 million pesetas (about £12.5 million), a sum which, after seven goals in seven league games and an

equal number handed on a plate to his grateful teammates, looks like the Spanish equivalent of the snip of the century.

There is another reason why Spain has, recently, gone absolutely loco for Ronaldo. He has, according to observers here, just scored one of the greatest goals of all time, one that ranks alongside Maradona's unforgettable bewitching of England's defence in Mexico in 1986.

It happened last Saturday, in Barcelona's game against lowly Compostela. Ronaldo won possession just inside his own half, and in ten sublime seconds — in which he touched the ball 14 times, beat seven men, rode kicks and shoves and pulls at his shirt — he scored a goal that had the normally composed Bobby Robson, the Barcelona manager, leaping from the bench and clutching his head in disbelief.

The goal has since been replayed on Spanish television on every possible occasion. "That goal marks his apotheosis," José Luis Núñez, the Barcelona president, said, Robson, purring, said: "Ron-

aldo has shown that he is the best young footballer in the world, and comparable to Pelé. I could take that goal around the world and I'd be sure that no one has seen anything better."

The former England manager has reason, also, to be grateful to his Brazilian prodigy, for it has made his life a blissful one. With a player like Ronaldo in his squad, he has but two choices: either to ensure that the team plays around him, or attempt to integrate his talent into a



Ronaldo: the "new Pelé"

more complex plan. Robson, nakedly, has gone for the first option.

Barcelona's tactics this season have been to defend in the hope that Ronaldo will eventually launch himself at the opponents' goal and score. He has, so far, carried this plan on the back of his prodigious talent. But the rest of the team has been lacklustre, and Barcelona have conceded goals in every game. Even Compostela, 5-0 down and bewildered by Ronaldo's sorcery, were able to score once.

Yet, as long as Ronaldo keeps scoring, Robson is unworried. Only one defender has so far been able to tie him down: César Gómez, of Tenerife. After that match, a shattered Gómez said: "Marking him is the most difficult job in the world. I just prayed a lot and ran my socks off. I was lucky."

Many would say he was, as the referee ought to have sent him off for at least two of his fouls on Ronaldo. Defenders are learning, however, that this boy-ox can take punishment without flinching. His powerful physique makes him impossible to disturb. That, plus his pace, his feints, his accuracy with both feet and his emerging genius, make him a one-man team in an 11-man game.

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